

By the courtesy of Inspector J. C. Glashan, we are in receipt of the Annual Report, for 1880, of the state of the Public Schools of Ottawa; also, from Inspector Little, a similar document in respect of the schools in the County of Halton. From the former we learn that there has been a falling off in the school attendance in the Ottawa City Schools, a circumstance which Mr. Glashan in some measure satisfactorily accounts for; and from the latter we glean the fact that in the Halton Schools "spelling continues to be excellent and writing from dictation has greatly improved during the year." Composition, Mr. Little adds, receives fair attention and linear drawing shews meritorious results.

WE learn with pleasure that Messrs. Stieger & Co, of New York, are about to publish in compact and inexpensive form a general reference book and manual on the theory and practice of teaching, under the title of the "Dictionary of Education and Instruction." The work is to be edited by Messrs. Kiddle & Schem, the compilers of the "Cyclopædia of Education," which was reviewed in our pages, in March 1879, and upon which the new book is said to be based. We hope to give an extended notice of the work so soon as it is issued.

A GOOD many people are beginning to inquire whether, after all, the Quincy system is what their "fancy painted it." An article in the Boston *Journal of Education* last month, would almost lead one to infer that much of the system is no better than what has been in vogue, and that a number of the new methods are not of much account.

SIGNOR BARCELLI, the new Minister of Public Instruction for Italy, is opposed to giving Government assistance to higher education. He contends that elementary branches should alone receive support, and that people of genius should be left to make their way by their own efforts.

NOW is the time for rural teachers to work up the tree planting business. Never mind though you intend to give up your school next Christmas, or even at midsummer; leave the place you are in better than you found it. If you are only getting \$300 a year, or less, remember that you are paid for more than what you can do *in* school. Begin the good work of beautifying your play-ground, and your successor will find less trouble in going ahead. Help by all means to make your countrymen cultivated, thinking citizens, and not merely reading and calculating machines.

A correspondent writes that he is pleased to know that three publishing firms in Toronto have in preparation a new map of the Dominion. The Department sheet of "shreds and patches" has been found so utterly confusing that a really good map is a necessity. Hereafter, our little ones will not have the impression formed upon their minds that Newfoundland is south of Nova Scotia, or British Columbia north of the Georgian Bay.

RICHARD GRANT WHITE, the Public School Iconoclast, has got himself into pretty deep and somewhat hot water. In nearly every one of our American exchanges we find somebody firing a pop-gun at him. For our own part, we think his criticisms, although often wide of the mark, likely to do good missionary work in the way of suggestive comment.

THEY are waging a war in Ohio about the system of School inspection. The conservative portion of the legislators are in favour of the old district plan. Those who propose a change advocate county and township inspection. What a long way we are ahead of the Hoosier State!

THE dispute as to the correct pronunciation of Arkansas has at last been settled by the State Legislature's passing a resolution that hereafter it shall be Arkansaw.