

aprons; the advantages of simultaneous class reading, and the dangers to be avoided; the use of a globe in giving a lesson on Day and Night; notes of a lesson on the changes of the Seasons, the process of some manufacture, a description of some agricultural machine; Post Office Orders; the proper position of the body for writing, and the right way of holding the pen. In answering the last question the author says,—“The writer should sit with his left side inclined to the desk, but not touching it, the body erect, head slightly bent, the feet resting firmly on the ground, with the left foot a little in advance of the right.” We think if any side is to be inclined to the desk it should be the right, because in every well-lighted school room the light comes from the left, and the scholar will then be enabled to take the full advantage of it; besides it is not desirable to have the left side, where the heart is beating, even in danger of being pressed against the desk. It may interest our female readers to know the answer to the question about children’s work-bags. “The most useful form of children’s work-bag is that of an envelope, broader than long, opening with a flap, which can be buttoned down when the bag is not in use. If the two ends of a yard of braid be stitched to the top corners of the bag, the bag may be suspended round the neck, so as to rest upon the lap when sitting.”

The answers to the questions on Domestic Economy will be of particular interest to our female readers. They deal with such matters as the principal kinds of stitches in sewing; the amount of material required for a plain cotton frock with short sleeves for a child four years old, the length of the body and skirt, the size of the armhole, and the length of the waist-band; the benefits of investments in building societies; the various kinds of food; the advantages and disadvantages of roasting, boiling, stewing, broiling and frying meat; rules for health, clothing and washing—when clothes should be put into cold water first and then boiled, and when they should be at once placed in boiling water.

The Pupil Teacher’s Third Year Course shews us to what extent the training of teachers is now carried in England. Here we have a text-book prepared to suit the wants not of pupil-teachers generally but of those of a particular year. The most valuable parts of this volume to our students will be those devoted to literature and music. In the hands of the teacher the book may be made a useful aid in giving questions on such subjects as algebra, arithmetic and grammar.

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THE FRONTIER SCHOOLMASTER: The Autobiography of a Teacher, an account not only of Experiences in the School-room, but in Agricultural, Political and Military Life, together with an Essay on the Management of Our Public Schools, by C. Thomas. Montreal: John Lovell & Son, 1880.

THIS is an attempt to lay before the reader, the condition of schools in some of the frontier townships of Canada East, twenty or thirty years ago, in the days of “boarding round.” Mechanically, the book is quite creditable to the publishers, and for their sakes, we trust will have a large sale. Here and there throughout the narrative, there are points not wholly devoid of interest, although, as a story, the writer might have declared very emphatically, had he ever been requested to print, “God bless me, I’ve no tale to tell!” That it was written by a frontier schoolmaster, or some other frontier man, is too painfully evident on almost every page. Slipshod English, colloquial vulgarisms, and Down-Easter provincialisms, besmirch every chapter, and these, be it remembered, not as put into the mouths of Messrs. Cross, Snodgrass, Barnum or Uncle Jack, when no one would have any business to find fault with them. On page 15, he says, “I had not thought of dinner till school *was excused*.” Again, p. 17—“at four o’clock, I *excused* my pupils.” On the preceding page, there is this sentence, “I was not long, however, in dispatching those [doughnuts] placed before me, *neither the bread and butter*.” A strange use of the word allotted occurs on p. 52, “we had always been rival candidates for