

quite common in our own country;" and that "the swiftest dog we have is the greyhound, which is used for pursuing and killing hares." On page 66 we are told "we chiefly keep goats from an idea that it is good for horses to keep company with goats," and that the latter "are able to foretell bad weather!" The difference between the goat and his near relative the sheep is thus playfully pointed out, viz.: that the former "has longer legs and a much shorter temper." The definition (page 101), of "Obstinate" is "self-willed, and determined not to listen to reason." This is given in elucidation of the characteristic of the donkey, which is said to be "stunted in its growth and obstinate in its temper." The only difference between the hen and the duck, considered worthy of mention in the Readers, is on page 84, thus stated, that the legs of the former are set more in the middle of its body than in the latter—a description which *Grip* might in vain rival. In Book II., page 10, this further fact in natural history is cited: "Birds have only two legs, but then they have also two wings, which more than make up!" Of the squirrel we are told that "his colour is reddish brown; but in a very cold winter his fur turns gray!" Of beavers, Book IV., page 17, repeats the erroneous statement that they use their tails as a mason uses his trowel. It is also said that a colony of them will consist of two or three hundred—an evident exaggeration. The English terrier, on page 57, is said to be "smooth and white," though we have always supposed his colour to be "black and tan." Leather, the Second Book limits to "the skin or hide of an ox or sheep, which has been steeped in water and lime, and pieces of the bark of a tree." Steeped in pieces of the bark of a tree! On page 18 we learn that "Beef is the flesh of the ox, which is roasted or boiled. Pork, bacon, or ham, is the flesh of the pig, which is usually salted." This is a sinister reflection on boarding-house hash, and on that toothsome dish—Roast-pork—of Charles Lamb. Potatoes are the roots of a plant which was brought to this coun-

try more than two hundred years ago from South America! Treacle "is the juice which is left over, after the sugar is made!" Palm-oil (page 43 of the Third Book), it is affirmed, "is used in this country to make soap," and in the same lesson the extraordinary fact is narrated of a man eating up a tree. But we cannot take up more space at present with extracts from these diverting volumes. They will furnish a fund of amusement to any teacher who wishes to give his boys something to laugh at. But it is as lamps of style that they shine with especial brilliance. In this respect these *livres de luxe* are unique; and the frequency with which inaccurate statements and composition which would do credit to *Opera Bouffe* are met with, are, we presume, only to be explained by the too common tendency of the time to slipshod writing. Certainly, if they are to be authorized by the Department, they will have to be re-written, and that we trust by competent teachers. The notes, questions, etc., appended to the lessons should, moreover, be pruned, and the references to the text verified. We hear that a well-known journalist is about to take them in hand. We would suggest to him drastic measures, and the free use of the scalpel. But it is said that the *School Journal* is also to be put into his hands to edit. That is a task in itself, and, assuming it, we trust that he won't find himself in the position of the old bachelor who was asked to hold an animate bundle while its female depositor stepped round the corner. Meantime, it will be assuring to the friends of education to know that the "Royal Canadian Readers," to be issued at an early day by the Canada Publishing Co., and the adaptation, by Messrs. James Campbell & Son, of Nelson's "Royal Readers," are both well under way, and may with confidence be looked to as Reading Books of high, we might almost say unusual, excellence, and possessing the merit not only of being thoroughly adapted for use in Canadian schools, but of a character that will do credit to Canadian scholarship and native literary workmanship.