

School Commissioners and Trustees are sometimes guilty of culpable neglect as to the heating of their school rooms in winter. It not unfrequently happens that a teacher who has to walk some little distance, finds, when she reaches the school house, that no fire has been lighted, or perhaps, that it has been lighted only a few minutes before her arrival. So, after the warmth produced by her walk has passed off, she commences to shiver, feels miserable all the forenoon, and is probably more or less unwell for weeks afterwards. Perhaps she has, by that chill, laid the foundation of serious or even fatal illness.

This is no fancy sketch; the thing occurs frequently. I have myself, over and over, come upon teacher and children all huddled round a stove in which crackling "var" and green birch were simmering comfortably, but had no heat to spare for outsiders. When the mercury shows thirty to forty degrees of frost, this is not a cheerful experience.

For the sake of teachers and children, as well as in the interests of education, stoves ought to be properly lighted at least one hour before school commences.

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BOOK NOTICES.

Canada in the 17th Century.—Geo. E. Desbarats & Co., Montreal, 1883. This little work of 84 pages is a translation from the French of Pierre Bouches by the late Edward Louis Montizambert. The dedication of the work is dated from the Town of Three Rivers, in New France, the 8th of October, 1663. The work may be regarded as an Emigration Pamphlet, probably the first ever issued in connection with this country. The author states in the preface that the object of the work is twofold.—First, to answer questions received from friends in France, and second, to furnish information for those intending to settle in the country. The work opens with an account of the geography of the country and of the leading settlements. Chapters on Trees, Animals, Birds, Fish and Plants give a very interesting account of the condition of the country at that early time. The manners and customs of the Indians are then touched upon, and the work closes with a statement of the chief disadvantages of the country, which are three: First, the dreaded Iroquois, and the constant prayer of the writer is "That our good King will come to the assistance of this country and will cause those rascally Iroquois to be destroyed." Second, the Mosquitoes, and third, the long winters. This account of Canada as it was at the middle of the 17th century, by one who had lived thirty years in those early settlements, is quaint, interesting and well worth reading.

Methods of Reading and Studying History, Ginn, Heath & Co., Boston, 1883, is the first volume of a Pedagogical Library edited by G. Stanley Hall. Part I. is a translation from the German of Dr. Diesterweg and it contains a most interesting and extensive analysis of the whole subject of historical study. Among the subjects treated are the Meaning of History, the use of History, Modes of Writing History, Limit of Subjects, Arrangement of Materials, Manner of Treatment, Outlines of Instruction in History, and Means of Instruction. Part II. contains a series of papers on History by the Professors of that subject in the leading Colleges in the United States. Part III. contains a list of historical works covering seventy-five pages, arranged in groups under subjects, countries and periods. The publishers, price, and a line of criticism is given in connection with each work, which makes the