

listen and forget. Just now there seems to be something of a return to the old method of reviewing the common branches, and right here we want to say that there has never yet been found a better or more practical way to teach pedagogy than the plan of taking up the lesson in the institute much as it is done in the school, and then and there reciting, teaching and discussing together. The successful institute is always that meeting where the teachers take part in the work, where they have something to do, and they do it."

The REVIEW has frequently cautioned its readers to beware of schemes that promise something for nothing, or next to nothing. It has been watchful about inserting in its columns any advertisement of the nature of a "fake." The result is that its advertising columns contain reliable statements from well-known firms and institutions. Quack medicine notices or "fakes" of any description are denied entrance on any condition, no matter what inducement is offered. A few weeks ago we were asked to insert an advertisement of a doubtful character. To make sure that our impression was correct, we submitted it to a firm on whose judgment we could rely. The answer we commend to the careful attention of our readers: "Many persons tell us that if they had not been induced to throw away good money on such advertisements as you enclose, they would have been much better off at present. Our teachers will be better off without such a work. If they subscribe for it because they saw it advertised in the REVIEW, and therefore think it good and reliable, they will not entertain kindly feelings toward you. That this proposition is impossible and of the 'fake' nature is very evident."

The following case is one which illustrates that teachers should not invest their small earnings in concerns which promise a high rate of interest. A teacher received a circular from a Wall street concern claiming to have a reserve fund of \$131,000. She invested and was soon told she had a handsome dividend to her credit. She told her friends, and forty or fifty teachers sent on money, amounting in all, it is said, to \$20,000. All these had "dividends" declared of such a handsome size that they let them remain. At last no reply to letters was received, and the teacher who had first invested began to investigate. She found that she was one of the many who had foolishly put in their money, expecting to double it in a year. No teacher should put money into concerns at a distance without competent advice. Untold sums of money have been

lost, and untold anguish and misery caused by people believing in schemes that promise to enrich them in a short time. Heartless scoundrels are always on the alert to thrive at the expense of credulous people. These should think twice and consult business men of undoubted integrity before yielding to first impulses.

Some time ago the editor received the following note from a boy in one of our schools: "Dear Sir: Would you please write me a composition about trees? I want to read it in public, and if you will, would you please have it here by the —" (mentioning the date). Perhaps the teacher is in part to blame for this species of dishonesty in giving a subject for composition without sufficient explanation or without regard to the capacity of the children. In such cases a weak pupil is led to steal the ready-made composition from a book or paper, or to attempt to gain it by the ingenious expedient of the writer of the above. The matter is one requiring careful oversight on the part of the teachers, for essay manufacture is far too common, to judge from a circular that has come to our notice. In this a certain "firm" guarantees to provide essays, orations, theses, debates, ranging in price from 35 cents to 90 cents per hundred words, according to style and nature of the subject. In the list of subjects is the following: "High School Orations and Essays, \$3 to \$8." The "firm" speaks of its "constantly increasing business for the past nineteen years, during which time it has increased from a merely local institution to the limits of the English-speaking world."

Gabriel Oak's Night-Dial.

"The Dog-star and Aldebaran, pointing to the restless Pleiades, were half way up the southern sky, and between them hung Orion, which gorgeous constellation never burst more vividly than now, as it swung itself forth above the rim of the landscape. Castor and Pollux, with their quiet shine, were almost on the meridian; the barren and gloomy square of Pegasus was creeping round to the north-west; far away through the plantation, Vega sparkled like a lamp suspended amid the leafless trees, and Cassiopeia's chair stood daintily poised on the uppermost height. 'One o'clock,' said Gabriel."—*From Stars and Their Names, by Hardy, in Littell's Living Age, January 25, 1902.*

[Can any of our readers tell the time of night by the stars as well as Gabriel?—EDITOR.]