

Law, a Section not supplied with books for free use is not entitled to a participation in the grant. This part of the law has not been enforced; there however should be a constant approximation to this provision.

An important matter yet remains for deliberation. The Teachers and the Salary. These two thoughts naturally associate. A good Teacher and a low Salary, or a good man and poor pay, are expressions the compatibility of which one fails to discover. Consider the work required of the Teacher, his relations to the children's future position in life, the power placed in his hands! and at once the generous heart is prompted to act liberally. All our feelings constrain us to urge the Teachers' claim. If they are incompetent do not have them at any price, but if otherwise, and are faithful to their trust, sustain them well, for good Teachers are blessings in the community where they labor. By all means, if you are resolved upon a good School, vote a generous support.

From the above suggestions, it is apparent that the annual meetings for deliberating and deciding these important matters are such as demand the serious attention of the people. Associated with them are weighty interests, and the rate payers of the Sections should make such gatherings the subjects of previous thought,—the points for deliberation should be honestly debated and preparation for action made. If, however, from the past we contemplate the future, assurance arises that in the hundreds of meetings to be held on the last Monday in September, the interest of Free Public Schools will not fail for want of vigor and decision on the part of friends.

#### A WORD TO TRUSTEES.

**N**EXT to the Teacher, the School-house is the important appendage to the School Section. The value of a superior teacher is very much diminished, and the work of education restricted, if the school-house is not adequate to accommodate comfortably the children of the section, or not kept in such repair and cleanliness, as is essential to the health of the pupils. Many sections, with commendable zeal, provided school-houses that are a credit to our Province, and with a due regard to the health and comfort of the children, keep such buildings clean and in good repair. There, however, is much left undone. Many sections require much larger buildings than they now have, not a few are allowed to continue from year to year in an unfinished state, to the annoyance of the teacher and at the risk of health, to both teacher and pupil, while again others are allowed to continue unpainted, unwhitewashed, unscrubbed, and uncleaned in any way. We wish, especially as it is now vacation, to invite the attention of trustees to this last named omission, and to urge upon their notice the necessity of having a house cleaning, before the beginning of the next term.

Whatever contributes to the health and comfort of the pupil will doubtless induce a more regular attendance and so enhance, even in the judgment of children, the value of their school. We beg to suggest, at how small an expenditure, a large amount of good may be secured. A little paint, a little time judiciously used, and a thorough annual scrubbing will make the old dingy, unsightly school house quite an attractive object in the section.

Every School House in the Province should be thoroughly cleansed, at least, at each summer vacation, and Trustees who do not see that it is done are remiss in a very important duty. It is well known that when an epidemic prevails, the school becomes a terror to parents, and justly so, for in many cases the state of the school house fits it for the propagation of contagion; while scrubbing and white-washing would undoubtedly do very much to lessen the danger and perhaps save life. We hope these hints will not be overlooked. We know that in very many cases they are called for, and as a part of the summer vacation yet remains, we hope the Trustees will see that the Section School House is in order, and well cleansed and white-washed before the little ones again occupy it.

#### TIME AROUND THE WORLD.

[From the Scientific American.]

**W**E have received of late sundry queries from correspondents relative to the gain or loss of time in circumnavigating the globe. Those who have not found answers in the columns devoted to such purpose will receive a general response in the following rather amusing discussion recently carried on between two grave and learned French savants on the same rather paradoxical topic: M. Jules Verne, of the French Geographical Society, has written a book entitled a "Tour around the World in Twenty-four Hours." What the nature of the contents of the volume is we know not; but at all events it excited M. J. Bertrand, of the Academy of Sciences, to attempt to pose M. Verne with the following conundrum. "A person supposed to be furnished with the necessary means of transportation, leaves Paris at noon on Thursday; he travels to Brest, thence to New York, San Francisco, Jeddo, etc., returning to his starting point after twenty-four hours, that is, encircling the globe at the rate of 15° of longitude per hour. At every station as he passes on his journey, he asks, "What time is it?" and he is invariably answered: "Noon." He then inquires "what day of the week is it?" At Brest "Thursday," is the reply, at New York the same; but on his return, supposing he passes Paris from the east and stops at Pontoise, a town some 10 miles to the northwest of that city, he will be answered "Friday." Where does the transition happen? "It is evident," continues the questioner, "that the transition must be sudden, and may be considered to take place at sea or in a country where the names of week days are unknown; but" he continues "suppose the parallel at which it happens should fall on a continent inhabited by civilized people speaking the same language, and that there should be two neighbors separated, say by a fence, on this very parallel? Then would not one say it was Thursday, at noon, while at the same moment the other would assert it to be Friday, at the like hour!"

M. Verne answers as follows: It is true that, whenever a person makes the tour of the globe to the east, he gains a day, and similarly when travelling to the west he loses a like period, but is to say, 24 hours which the sun in his apparent motion, occupies in describing a circle around the earth. This is so real and well recognized that the administration of the French navy gives a supplementary day's ration to vessels which, leaving Europe, double the Cape of Good Hope, while it retains on the contrary a similar provision from ships rounding the Horn. It is also true that, if a parallel existed, such as above described across an inhabited region, there would be complete disagreement between the people adjacent thereto; but this parallel does not exist, for Nature has placed oceans and deserts in our path where transition is made and a day gained or lost unconsciously. Through an international convention, the point for making the days agree has been fixed at the meridian of Manilla. Captains of vessels, under the same rule, change the dates of their log books when they pass the 18th meridian.

Edgar A. Poe, if we are not mistaken, avails himself of this apparent puzzle; in one of his desultory sketches, to point the story of an individual whose would-be father-in-law, refuses him the hand of his adored, with her concomitant of an agreeably large dowry, until that time shall happen when "two Sundays fall in a week." The luckless lover in despair goes to sea, sails round the world, and returns to renew his suit exactly one year from his departure. In the course of events a discussion takes place between himself and the stern parent relative to the present day of the week, in which he insists that it is Sunday. The one produces his diary, kept since his departure; the other falls upon the calendar. Finally it transpires that the traveller in sailing around the globe to the east has gained a day in his reckoning; hence both disputants are right, two Sundays have come together, and the happy *denouement* follows.

— A student in astronomy going home the other night rather late, was startled by the apparition of a meteor, as he supposed, slowly making its way earthward. Just about the time he was well through with the "spread eagle" phrases of his vocabulary, he was informed that it was nothing but a kite with a lantern attached.