

points of faith and duty : the time devoted to religious teaching is very short. To be thoroughly effective, religious instruction should be given day by day ; it should be closely connected with a child's life, and, above all, should be directed to the formation of habits rather than to the acquisition of knowledge.—*The School Guardian*.

FROM THE ANTIPODES.—Professor Morris, Chairman of the committee that was formed in Melbourne to assist in raising in some degree the loss occasioned by the burning of the library of the University of Toronto some time ago, has received from the librarian of that institution a number of acknowledgments of donations sent by various donors in Melbourne. The librarian adds :—" I believe Sir Daniel Wilson, the president, has already communicated to you the satisfaction with which this gift from the Antipodes has been received in Toronto. The newspapers here have appreciated the gift in the spirit in which it is offered, as well as

the special reference made by yourself to this an evidence of kindly feeling between two colonies of the British Empire, which are separated by so great an interval of space from each other."—*Australasian Schoolmaster*.

ACADEMIC TRAINING.—" Do not be led away by the delusion that everything has been thought upon such subjects that can be thought, and all we have got to do now is to abandon them as barren fields of intellectual excitation, to devote ourselves to the more practical studies. I am perfectly certain that any great centre of academic education which ignored philosophy as an essential branch of its studies would thereby condemn and stultify itself. Industrial work, unbalanced by literary work, literary and industrial work, unbalanced by speculative work, depend upon it, ought never to form the mental sustenance and subsistence of academic training."—*Hon. A. J. Balfour*.

GEOGRAPHY.

THE RECESSION OF NIAGARA FALLS.—Since 1842 there has been an average yearly recession of the American Fall of seven 68-100 inches, and at the Canadian or Horse Shoe Fall an average yearly recession of two feet 16-100 inches. In other words, in forty-eight years the American Fall has receded thirty 75-100 feet, and the Canadian Fall in the same time has receded 104 51-100 feet.—*From Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine*.

CORK.—The cork tree belongs to the class of oaks, and there are two trees,—*quercus suber* and *quercus occidentalis*, that from time to time shed their bark or outer coating. This coating is the cork which is sold to the trade ;

but its bark, shed by nature, is not remarkable, because it does not contain any sap, which is necessary to retain the elasticity. Cork is obtained by peeling. After a tree is three years old the peeling may commence, but cork of that age is poor in quality, and besides the peeling would kill the tree. Trees twenty years old give cork of a fair quality ; but the older the tree the better the cork until the tree has gained the respectable age of 100 or 150 years, when it is no longer good, the bark having become hard and unyielding. The price in the market varies from four to seventy cents per pound according to the quality and thickness. The full grown cork tree is seventy feet high and has