

School. Of these, ten are preparing for first-class certificates, twenty-eight for second-class and fifty for third-class; two matriculation in law, one senior matriculation in arts, four for junior matriculation, three matriculation in medicine, six for the Ontario Art School examination. All in the junior forms are pursuing either a general English or Classical course. More than half of those in attendance are from places beyond the town. The previous Head Master, D. H. Hunter, B.A., Toronto University was appointed in Oct., 1881. Mr. Strachan, previous Head Master, being retained as Classical Master, also Mr. A. D. Griffin, as Mathematical Master, and Miss N. Harrison, Teacher in Drawing. In 1885, owing to the greatly increased attendance, it was found necessary to add another teacher to the staff, and Mr. T. J. Parr, Toronto University, was appointed and to him were assigned the Elocution and Commercial Departments. The excellent work done in the school is evidenced by the high standing of the pupils at the University and Departmental examinations of the past year. Two passed the first year's examinations of Toronto University, one matriculated in law, ten secured second-class certificates, grade A, five grade B, and thirteen third class certificates.

Literary Chit-Chat.

The Citizen is a new journal published in Boston under the auspices of the "American Institute of Civics." This last is a new word coined in much the same way as "politics," "pedagogics," etc. *The Citizen* is a double column, twenty-four page paper. It is well got up and the first two numbers give promise of considerable vigor and ability.

Professor Huxley replies in the February number of the *Nineteenth Century*, to Mr. Gladstone's recent article.

A Washington writer has undertaken to prove that Bacon wrote Shakespeare's Sonnets.

Professor Preyer, of Jena, a prominent psychological writer and investigator, has no faith whatever in mind-reading and has published a long article giving his reasons for his scepticism.

Professor Johnston, of Princeton, N. J., is writing a history of the United States from 1840 to the present time.

Captain Collins, author of "The America's Cup," "Old Sailor Yarns," etc., and at present Yacht Editor of the New York *World*, contributes to the *March Outlook* the first of a series of papers on "Blockade Running during the Civil War." M. J. Burns will illustrate them. It is not generally known that Captain Collins was present at the Monitor and Merrimac fight.—*The Week*.

The views of Henry George on the subject of free trade, which have lately appeared in a syndicate of papers including *The Toronto Globe*, will soon be published in book-form.

A leading writer in a late issue of the *Week*, discussing James Anthony Froude's new book, delivers himself of the following remarkable opinion and prediction. "Mr. Froude accepts with too much complacency, I think, that idea, which the genius of history will one day avenge, that the revolt of the American Colonies in the last century was a justifiable and peculiarly 'English' proceeding. A like argument will some day be used, with bitter emphasis, to justify perhaps another rebellion, which will not be less iniquitous nor less unjustifiable." The writer seems to forget that Froude was writing in the *Nineteenth Century*.

Ginn & Company will publish by September 1st a course of easy lessons in Science, consisting of three small text-books, adapted from the course of Paul Bert, recently Minister of Education in France, and designed for use in common schools.

Correspondence.

TWO WEEKS' WORK.

To the Editor of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL:

DEAR SIR,—Euclid tells us that triangles on the same base and between the same parallels are equal (in area). Now, I have worked day and night for two weeks proving the truth of his theorem, arithmetically.

In the right-angled triangle whose base is 5, perpendicular 12, and hypotenuse 13, if we extend the base and draw through the vertex a parallel; between these parallels and on the base 5 we should suppose there are triangles whose sides are rational and

whose areas are 30. The generalization of the solution of this problem was the task I proposed to myself. I figured till the figures turned red—a beautiful red, but a painful one. The fraction expressing finite sides are in hundreds of millions. I used diophantine analysis in order to get rational values. I do not see its solution is possible without this analysis. I started the problem as a mere recreational exercise of the above analysis, but I would not take \$100 and go through a similar difficulty. Should anyone wish to correspond, my address is,

JOHN IRELAND, Fergus.

THE PENALTY.

To the Editor of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL:

DEAR SIR,—The unpleasant consequences of connecting education with politics in the person of a Minister are often cropping out. Perhaps no clearer example has transpired than that furnished in the correspondence of the *Mail* of Feb. 22nd, where "Junius" makes one of the most shameless attacks on the character of a lady teacher for the purpose of getting a slash at his political opponent. Such a venomous libel would have been almost impossible if educational affairs had not been dragged down into the mire depths of party politics.

Yours truly,
PUNRY.

Walsingham, Feb. 25th.

AUTHORIZED TEXT-BOOKS.

To the Editor of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL:

SIR,—The repeated interrogations to teachers on the subject of this letter, the threatening of fines and withdrawal of the legislative grant, seem to imply that the teacher has some definite means of obtaining information on this subject; but, if such is the case, I have failed to discover them, although I have been nearly nine years in the profession. Once upon a time a list of authorized text-books was sent to the secretary-treasurer of each school section, but in most cases it has been laid away in some forgotten corner, to be discovered by diligent antiquarians in future ages. When were teachers ever supplied with such a list? Not since I became one; and yet they are the only ones to whom parents apply (sometimes) before purchasing books for their children. We know that the Canadian drawing books are authorized. We are also aware that the new Ontario Readers are authorized—painfully so in the case of the Part I. and Part II. but with regard to the authorization of books (modern books) in other subjects we are left where Moses was when the candle went out. However, we are repeatedly informed that "no part of the legislative grant can lawfully be paid to schools using unauthorized text-books," and that teachers who permit their use are liable to be fined by a magistrate. For several weeks I have been trying to discover what books are authorized in certain subjects. From one source I obtained the information: "The list is not yet out of press"; from another, "There is no change." At last I have received a list published in 1884 from a friend who considered my need to be greater than his. Would it not be better for the Education Department to have such a list printed on the covers of the new registers, so that teachers could possess the latest information on this subject? It is all very well to quote the legal maxim "Ignorantia leges non excusat," but when the teachers are semi-annually confronted with the question, "Are any unauthorized text-books used by the pupils?" I think they have a right to ask, "Which are authorized text-books?"

I am, sir, yours truly,

THOMAS PACKER.

Lake Opinicon P.O., Feb. 20th, 1886.

THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

To the Editor of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL:

DEAR SIR,—I was very glad to see an article in your last number in regard to the proposed reduction, by nearly one month, of holidays for our teachers. You treated the question in one line of thought, and certainly fully showed psychological causes why these holidays should not be curtailed—reasons, many of which will be classed among sentimentalisms by the proposers of the scheme, the "Grey Fathers." But, sir, there is another light in which we ought to be allowed to look at the matter, and one in which these gentlemen may possibly be more conversant than in respect to the mental wants or powers of children—I refer to the business side of the question. When an advertisement appears in our papers, the applicant offers his or her services for a definite payment, with a distinct