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## THE FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN UPPER CANADA.

As the reading season, in connection with our Free Public School Libraries is now at hand, we have inserted in this number of the *Journal of Education*, for the information of Trustees and Teachers, a series of articles, or papers bearing upon the subject of libraries and library books.

We would especially call attention to those papers on page 162 which refer to the inevitable connection between the reading of sensational literature and crime. The proof of this ruinous connection between pernicious reading and youthful crime is but too evident not only in England and the United States, but also in our own country.\* Recently, a mania for theft and other kindred

\* As an illustration of this statement we would direct the attention of our readers to an article on this subject in the *Journal of Education* for April, 1861, in which cases which occurred in Canada are cited. We would also remind our readers of the instances of youthful crime which recently occurred at London and other parts of Canada, and which may most probably be accounted for in like manner,—as well as a familiarity with discharged convicts, as stated by the judge. A late number of the *London Prototype* says:—"The present year has developed an amount of crime in our midst which, we fancy, few imagined could exist. . . . But even looking at the city calendar solely, we find a record alarming enough; and in every case, we believe, the criminals were young men—and in some instances, sons of most respectable people. It was, we are told, a melancholy spectacle to see such an array of well-dressed, good-looking young men as stood in the dock on the closing day of the assizes, when Mr. Justice Hagarty was called on to pass the sentences. The learned judge himself commented freely and feelingly on the great increase of

crimes seemed to have possessed, not in all cases, the poor and ignorant, but, the youth of some of the more respectable and well educated families in the community. This depraved taste, and extraordinary fancy for crime seems to have been fostered to a lamentable extent by a familiarity with the daily records of the police-court, or with the recitals of successful crime prepared by professional writers of that class of criminal literature.

It is true that the facilities for religious instructions in the schools are ample; and that in Toronto, Hamilton, and all over Upper Canada, advantage is fully taken of those facilities; but such instruction, if not followed up, or if it is permitted to be neutralised by other adverse influences, caused by neglect to provide library books of a sound, moral, or healthful tone, then it is clear that an evil is growing up among us which should be checked without delay.

It must be obvious to every one who reflects for a moment on this subject, that if in our schools, boys are given a taste for reading and learning, it is unreasonable, not to say reprehensible, for the school authorities not to provide a supply of pure and healthy reading for gratifying those intellectual tastes which have been thus designedly created. To permit boys, whose desire for books and reading has been fostered, to select such works as they see fit, is to leave them open to most dangerous influences; for often the reading of the bad and disreputable books, which are to be found on so many of the book stalls, affords their unsophisticated natures the highest gratification. The taste thus vitiated grows by what it feeds upon; and the descent, it is well known, is easy from familiarity with the overwrought pictures of imaginary crime to the actual perpetration of it. The case of young Harter at Brockville, as given in this *Journal* for April, 1861, and the English cases mentioned on page 162 of this number, afford a painful proof of this.

It is, therefore, a serious responsibility which rests upon trustees to provide for this inevitable want in the school-room—a want which is inseparable from the very training which they are giving to the pupils. To meet this pressing necessity every

crime observable in a class of young men from whom much better things might be expected. 'It has been,' he said, 'a subject of remark to him that a great number of decent looking young men in Toronto seemed to be leading lives of infamy; and he was sorry to say their ranks were increasing. They were not of the lowest but of the better classes—young men who had indulgent parents, comfortable houses, enough to eat and drink, but who abandoned themselves to the most idle, dissolute and intemperate courses.' This is an ominous state of affairs. . . . That the educated respectable classes of society should send so many criminals abroad, and those, too, of the worst stamp, is a new and surprising feature of our social system."

facility has been given to trustees by the Educational Department to furnish their schools with suitable library books at the least possible cost to the neighborhood. It is gratifying to know that so many of the trustees have cheerfully availed themselves of these facilities, but still there are yet many parts of the country in which no free public school libraries have yet been established. From an interesting library map of Upper Canada, recently compiled in the Educational Department, it is curious to see how whole districts of the newer parts of the country have largely availed themselves of their library privileges, while many of the older parts have literally done nothing at all. What may be the future fate of the children of the schools thus deprived of the blessing and companionship of good books during the long winter evenings, it is difficult to tell; but the risk in their case is more than should be incurred by intelligent parents or trustees.

## II. Papers on Youthful Crime and its causes.

### 1. YOUTHFUL CRIME AND CHEAP PERIODICALS.

It was Sir Walter Scott who, according to Lockhart's *Life* of him, said, that to teach a child to read and then not to provide books for him, was like teaching a person to seek good food, and then bring him to an empty larder. Sir Walter's own beautiful writings undoubtedly helped to banish the trashy novels—the *Pamelas*, &c. of a former age, wherefore we respect his memory; but the two cases which he mentions differ greatly. A child who has been taught to read, and to love reading, if not supplied with books or papers that are good, will exercise his power on those that are bad. Reading of some kind he must and will have. His is not, as in the case of the hungry person, a question between food and no food, but it is a question between good reading and bad reading. How often, when walking the streets of this great metropolis, if you are only moderately observant, may you see youths, evidently intelligent in countenance, quick in sensibility, their arms entwined around each other's neck, dead to all outward signs of life, to the passing crowd, to the roll of vehicles, to the flowing tide of business, gazing intently into a shop window, where hang many cheap periodicals, adorned with rough woodcuts, setting before the bodily eye the burden of the letterpress, which relates how deeds of violence were done without detection, how a free and easy way of life was secured by some bold stroke for money, and how the assertors of the law were outwitted and baffled by an unscrupulous use of nerve. No one will say that the children whose attention is bound and taste fascinated by such literature as is here described, do not slowly imbibe poison. Yet they have been taught and well taught, in Church schools, perhaps, and having the power of reading given to them, they exercise it. The Church is liberal towards her children. It is not her fault if any of them grow up in ignorance. She spends large sums of money on schools, colleges, teachers, books. But the church leaves too much to the enterprise of private publishers, when she neglects the work of publishing cheap periodicals for children. Private publishers have one object, and only one, namely, to sell their publications and make money, and they will accomplish their object by following, but not creating, the public taste. Of course the result is certain. We have the cheapest editions of *Jack Sheppard*, and a succession of such books as *Charley Wag*. The poison is first set flowing in towns, but it soon affects villages. We have endeavoured on every suitable occasion to draw attention in this *Paper* to the evil which we deplore. Proofs of the evil are not wanting. One was furnished a few days ago.

"*Robbery by a Page*.—Wm. James Faver, page in the service of Lady Caroline Thynne, of No. 15a Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, was charged before Mr. Knox with stealing some gold bracelets and a quantity of other property, belonging to her ladyship.—Serjeant John Mulvaney, 24 A, said: "On the 21st instant I went to the residence of Lady Caroline Thynne, 15a Upper Brook Street, and found that the prisoner, who was page in her ladyship's service, had absconded, taking with him a quantity of jewellery and other valuable property. I found the woodwork of a drawer had been cut and forced. Yesterday, from information I had received from the superintendent of police at Dover, I went there, and took the prisoner into custody. On telling him the charge, he said it was all true, and that he had done it through reading the *Life of Jack Sheppard*. On searching his box I found in it the book in question. If remanded I shall be able to produce the whole of the property."—The prisoner: I have no question to ask. It is all true.—Mr. Knox remanded the prisoner."

William James Faver fell a victim to the *Life of Jack Sheppard*, but he is not a solitary instance of the debasing effect of a great mass of the current cheap literature. *Charley Wag*, the *Wild Boys of London*, and other cheap publications, are quietly doing their inevitable work, working out a vast plan of demoralisation. Ed. Breese fell a victim in the following week.

"*Attempt to set Fire to a House*.—Edward Breese, a youth of fifteen, was charged with attempting to set fire to his master's premises, 523 Oxford Street.—Mr. W. Andrews, the prosecutor, deposed that he was a tailor, and the prisoner was a porter in his employ at eight shillings a week and his board and lodging. He had been about four months in his situation. Having missed a considerable quantity of cloth, &c., he had lately suspected the prisoner of robbing him, and this impression was confirmed by his seeing the boy with a silk handkerchief in his possession belonging to witness. This was on Sunday. He told the boy he must go, and on Monday morning at about eleven o'clock he placed a placard in his window, intimating that another lad was wanted. Shortly after this there was a strong smell of smoke all over the house, and on going to the shop he asked prisoner what was the cause of it. He said he did not know. Witness then proceeded down stairs to the back kitchen, and found that the smoke proceeded from a little room under the shop, a dresser which was still burning and very much charred. He then accused the boy of having purposely set fire to the place, and he denied it; but he afterwards admitted the fact, saying that he set light to it with some paper. Witness, reflecting upon the serious nature of the offence, thought it his duty to give the boy into custody, although he had previously told him that he should simply discharge him. Such was the position of the dresser, that if the flames had been fanned by a draught, the whole house must have been speedily burnt down. I told him I should let him go before he confessed, but I afterwards considered that I was wrong in letting him off.—Police constable 42 E said he found the dresser charred and burnt for about three feet, as described by Mr. Andrews. The boy admitted that he did it to be revenged upon his master for having given him notice to leave. He found that the prisoner had been in the constant habit of reading such publications as *Charley Wag*, the *Wild Boys of London*, and other cheap publications, several copies of which he found in the boy's possession, (produced). The prisoner, on being asked if he had anything to say to the charge, replied, without any sign of contrition, 'nothing.'—Mr. Flowers: I must remand him for a week, and consider how I shall deal with the case."

Surely cheap periodicals, to counteract the bad ones, which are now so numerous, ought to be issued by the organs of the Church; and when issued, ought to be patronised, encouraged, and circulated in every possible way. While we have one such periodical, for example, as *Pleasant Hours*, we ought to have half-a-dozen. It ought to be possible to furnish reading as fascinating and powerful in an opposite direction, as *Jack Sheppard*. There surely must be and is a simple, manly, affecting way of telling a tale, and the story of a life, and as good a mode of relating an adventure, as are to be found in any bad periodical. But the great fault of most persons who write for good periodicals is, that they are either too sermony, or else witty, without the power of being such, and hence they become too smart, too flippant, and therefore unreal; or the style which they adopt on paper is so mawkish, so enfeebling, that the reader, however young, feels that he is an artificial atmosphere. He is made sad. He cannot sympathise with sorrows which are as the sorrows of babyhood; he pines for something more chilling and real, like a man who is condemned to spend hours, on a hot evening, in a crowded saloon, when he thinks of the cold bath at home which would restore him. This question of cheap Church periodicals is important. May such periodicals be multiplied, and when multiplied, encouraged!

This is our earnest wish. The object is pressing. The influences of the schools are being undermined. We want many good cheap periodicals to counteract the effects of bad ones; but the writing in such should be manly while it is simple. In one word, it must be real.

### 2. PERNICIOUS READING FOR BOYS WHO CAN READ.

A few weeks ago, a boy was charged with stealing an article of small value, and one such as boys would scarcely begin to take. The little fellow was bright and intelligent. There was a natural ingenuousness in him which was engaging. Yet he stood at the bar of the police court, a thief! He was not poverty stricken. Idle fellows had not used him as their easy tool, and deserted him when he became their "conscript on whom the lot fell." Kind relatives, to save their pockets, had not turned him out upon a stirring world. He had a home humble and obscure, down a

dingy back street; and it seems to have been as comfortable as poor working people in the city could make it. This was his first crime, and neither want, ignorance, nor bad company had led him to it. How then shall we explain this little fellow's declension? In one sense it is fortunate that the knitted brow, stern countenance, and sharp questioning of the magistrate forced from the youth the truth. The boy had been a diligent student in the annals of crime. Lives of pirates, thieves, footpads, and highwaymen had kindled in his breast a fiery admiration of their deeds, and he was beginning to imitate the heroes whose adventures he had studied, when fortunately the law stepped in and stopped him, just when he had passed across the threshold of crime.

It is a well-known fact that every week or month the printing press supplies, at a low cost, a mass of reading which may be termed criminal literature. It is used in numbers, very cheap, and its attractiveness is increased by a profusion of wood-cuts. The heroes who figure in the criminal calendar are described with a power, spirit, and piquancy worthy of a better theme, and this criminal literature, lying in a fascinating way in the windows of shops in cities and towns, is eagerly bought up and as eagerly read. In winter evenings, when snow falls, and blustering winds outside, shake the door fastenings, and youths are confined to the house, these penny or half-penny numbers are brought out to be thumbed and pored over, nay devoured; and as they are periodically issued, they are always replenished. Even if there be no candle, the fire light falls flickering upon the page, stirring the wood-cuts into life almost, and the very room seems to the young reader to be peopled by heroes in the work of crime. There is a grim fascination in this class of literature—an almost Satanic influence about it, and even older and better readers may think themselves fortunate if it leaves not a poison behind.

The law has not prohibited this kind of literature, and will not do so; but it is surely true wisdom to provide an antidote to the poison which lies at its heart's core. If the young are taught to read, it surely is necessary that they should have good reading, and not poisonous literature, for their spare hours. At the same time the reading should be such as will make spare hours pleasant hours, otherwise Jack Sheppard and Dick Turpin will assuredly be pressed into service. It is not by filling books intended for spare hours with scientific descriptions of levers, wedges, syphons, tubes and telescopes, or by describing a cat and labelling it the *felis domesticus* of Linnæus, that Dick Turpin is to be kept out of the minds of the young. This can be done in treatises to be studied. The young want something in spare hours which they can read.

Here it may be noticed that periodicals are for this purpose superior to books. Books are now cheap and numerous; but when read through once or twice their novelty and interest pass away, and books are not easily replenished. Periodicals, however, coming often, have a freshness which is their charm, if so be that they are simple and attractive in style, and the subjects presented therein are wisely chosen.—*National Society's Monthly Paper.*

### 3. EFFECTS OF NOVEL READING IN BELMONT.

Some months ago, when the "Gift-book enterprise" was more in vogue than at present, an influx of trashy American literature and sensation novels took place into this country. One of the latter class, bearing the enticing title of the "Scalp Hunter," found its way to the domicile of a young farmer residing in Belmont. Eagerly devouring its contents, his mind became filled with exciting incidents and hair-breadth escapes, in which red men and bowie-knives figured conspicuously. Unaccustomed to this kind of mental pabulum, what wonder that the subject was re-produced in his dreams, and that, in the quiet night, with his wife and babe slumbering peacefully beside him, he seized the partner of his bosom by the throat, and, with desperate clutch, imbedded his nails around her wind-pipe, threatening speedy strangulation. The cries of the awakened babe happily recalled him to wakefulness, and saved his loving spouse from further injury; who, we may be sure, by no means relished being choked and scalped in lieu of the red man of the woods. One woe was passed, but another was to come. On the second night, the excited man, deeming himself again among his wily foes, repeated the operation, but, happily, with no more fatal effect. The third time is said to bring the charm, and the suffering wife, unwilling to trust the fatal number, introduced her mother to the scene, to do watch and ward, lest more serious consequences might ensue. **MORAL.**—Beware of trashy stories and sensation novels.—*Peterborough Review.*

### 4. THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK ON WORKS OF FICTION.

At a soiree in Huddersfield, on October 31st., the Archbishop of York spoke of the daily educational influence exerted by books and periodicals at the present day, and how the teachings supplied at

school were supplemented by the teachings which each one gained for himself from the literature he had access to. He defined useful study as that which enlarged their sympathies for their fellow-creatures over the whole world, and which enlarged their knowledge of the world as it was governed by God. In order to understand what useful reading was, he thought he might venture to look at what was useless reading. Every working-man would be likely to fall in, no doubt, with the newspaper for one thing; and, for another, with those stimulating narratives which went now by the somewhat barbarous term of "sensational stories." These sensational stories were tales which aimed at this effect, simply: of exciting in the mind some deep feeling of over-wrought interest, by the means of some terrible passion or crime. They went to persuade people that in almost every one of the well-ordered houses of their neighbours there was a skeleton shut up in some cupboard; that their comfortable and easy-looking neighbour had in his breast a secret story which he was always going about trying to conceal; that there was something about a real will registered in Doctors' Commons and a false will that at some proper moment would tumble out of some broken bureau and bring about the denouement which the author wished to achieve. This was the sort of food supplied in almost every kind of publication, from the penny story to larger and more important works. In point of truth they entirely failed; they gave distorted views of nature, and while they enlarged upon its crimes and weaknesses, forgot the rich chapter of silent homely sympathies, the pious mothers training their children, their secret nightly prayers for them, and the hints and helps to duty which they strewed in the paths of these children. Such as these were not stimulating enough. Always they would observe in this kind of fiction some great passion was supposed to take possession of a man; it was love, or jealousy, or what not, and it was enough to state that the man was stricken by this passion to be sure that his destruction was settled beforehand by the writer of the fiction, and that there was no possibility of escape. If he was not greatly mistaken, this tone had strongly reacted upon society itself, and in some of the great crimes perpetrated he seemed to see the influence of this kind of feeling. And it was also false because of its associating crime with a certain grand strength. It was some great and strong or beautiful person who was generally the hero or heroine of these tales of horror.—Could they suppose anything more dangerous to the young and to the weak and half-formed mind than the contemplation of this kind of creation of the writer? It was entirely false. Some of them had read that day the conclusion of one of those tragedies in the conviction of a most miserable man for a most atrocious murder. But there he thought there was indeed a moral, for in the first place detection has followed guilt, and in the second place they had laid before them the weakness and the contemptible folly and misery of such a crime as that of which they had read the history. It would be found invariably, he might say, that crime was the offspring of a broken nature, not of a nature in its strength. Our emotions were given us for a practical end, and apart from any other bad result whatever, he was sure that the working constantly upon peoples' emotions, without giving them the opportunity to put in practice what the emotion suggested, was itself a great evil, because it wore out the man in the finer part, and he was, so to speak, jaded and palled, and unfit to do the thing which he was intended by his Maker to do. The object of education was practical truth. They were being taught by every day, by every book they read, even though they did not agree with it—taught by every social influence brought to bear upon them, and by every opportunity of good when they made use of it.—*Montreal Witness.*

### 5. YOUNG MEN AND THEIR READINGS.

At this season of the year, when the lengthened night affords to our mechanics, artisans, and general toiling populations, leisure and opportunities unknown to the busier and more exhausting months of summer, it may not be considered as out of place if we offer a few suggestions upon a subject perhaps not sufficiently pondered. Few there are of the class referred to, who have not facilities, more or less, for vast mental and moral improvement; and it would seem that nothing tends with greater directness to this devoutly to be wished consummation, than an enlarged acquaintance with our soundest literature. Were but a portion of the time which is so studiously devoted to less worthy, not to say questionable pursuits, but once and fairly redeemed, and turned into self-improving material, the ultimate effect upon personal and social life would be at once both marked and beautiful. And more especially does this subject assume an aspect of importance when viewed in its relation to the young men of our Church, to whose increasing moral power, and to whose growing religious influence she is looking forward with such yearning anxiety.

Whatever tends to the expansion of the human intellect, the refinement of sensibility, and the augmentation of mind power, must

be regarded evermore as a mighty moral and social force. We live in an intensely active and enquiring age, and the great cry of the mighty masses of society is "Give us mental aliment." This anxiety is both natural and relevant, and is in perfect keeping with the original constitution of the human mind. It has also come to pass that no very vigorous intellectual life can now be lived without great indebtedness to books. If a man be known as a thoughtful, earnest, appreciating lover of books, and often asking their counsel, he will be held as a lover of wisdom; or at least, his interest in books will be considered as a pleasing sign of self-improving character. Full culture of the individual would seem impossible without the aid they alone can impart. A life of immense power, of thought and action is ever associated with our highest literature. Books enlarge, enlighten, improve, and empower us. The mind of the writer has laid its affluence of thought, recollection and hope at our feet. We are by sweet and silent contact brought to sympathize with loftier minds; excitement, freedom, energy are the result. Old mental limits are defied, old bondages crumble, and holding high the franchise of our individual liberty we step to higher thought and deeper intuition; and in laying aside our old self, assume a new and sprightlier manliness. Others, in offering us *their* worth reveal to us our own. Plato is mightier than Cæsar, and the pen of the thinker than embattled battalions. Thrones and coronets, palaces and pyramids, rocks and mountains, are weaker than the world's best books.

But reading is a work of Herculean labour, and the reader must come to his book with a purpose, strong, determined, and persevering if he would read with the highest result. Reading in the highest sense, is as necessarily a work of labor and solitude as is earnest thought. Deep mental life seeks seclusion, hides most purposely from vulgar gaze that alone it may struggle for a body and a development. So it is with reading; read alone we must, with pains, with patience, with oft-returning glance, for reaching full effect upon our higher being. In reading a great and good book, we come in contact with a great and benevolent mind. The book itself was not a momentary growth, a mere efflorescence, but the result of close-bent, hard-strained, oft-foiled agony and effort. If then we would fully embrace thoughts thus painful and agonistic in their birth, it is by no means a great thing that we should patiently, earnestly, anxiously seek their mastery and appropriation. Our thoughts will never rise to the height of the author's we read, unless we are prepared to toil where they toiled, to groan where they groaned, and to writhe where they agonized.

The merely desultory reader seldom benefits either himself or others. By all he thus does he impairs his faculties, and teaches his memory to become treacherous. He reads much but knows little, his little "becomes beautifully less," until he becomes an absolute stranger to earnest and concentrated thought. His mind is always too much in haste to think, or reflect, or deliberate; he merely seeks to skim the surface, and, hence, he robs himself of the ability either to satisfy or reverse the assumptions and conclusions of others. His memory becomes inert, his imagination folds its wing, his judgment droops and wilts, he feels a momentary flash, and all is gone forever.

Thus all the ends of reading are perverted; the price of knowledge, of wisdom, of endless delight is in the hands of a fool, and the poor fool has nothing to show for his pains. It is an ominous augury when a young man can sit down and devour a "New York Ledger," a sickly tale, or the "last novel," with the zest of a hungry hunter, and yet fight shy of a thoughtful and elevating book. But unhappily the rage for novels, romances, legendary tales, and plays; together with comic renderings, though by professionals and even famous readers, is too general to be considered less, even in Canada, than a great social blemish. It has become a moral blight which overspreads the land; and which blasts the blossoms of virtue withers every natural feeling and benevolent principle, every serious thought and religious purpose, and unfits the soul for everything important, dignified or divine. This "rage" has the lamentable effect of keeping the fancy awake, and the understanding asleep, of paralyzing the mind; and, after having rendered its deluded votaries totally incapable of all useful effort and painstaking practice in this life, consigns them over to irretrievable ruin in the life which is to come. There can be nothing more destructive in its nature or in its tendencies more inimical to the best interests of the public and the individual, than this general and deeply rooted passion for books of fiction, and exhibitions of a similar character.

Every determined, judicious self-improver, has faculty enough to become a good reader. His object being power, stability, force of thought, "though baffled oft," he wins the prize. Reading becomes a mighty instrument by which he throws a new complexion over his moral history, and secures to himself an ever increasing vigour of soul. Public, boundless, and unending sympathies attach to the wise and earnest reader. In no partial, circumscribed, or partizan spirit can he, without self-reproach, permit himself to live.

Books are the highest representative value of the world; and the age has gathered around us the amplest treasures of thought, and opened the proudest mines of intellectual affluence. Let our young men penetrate the surface, become familiar with the venerable and everlasting thoughts of the great Classic of our own tongue, master our mighty theological standard? and taking Isaiah and Paul by the hand scale the battlements of the loftiest truth, and touch the highest standard of the Man. We may refer to this subject again.—*Christian Guardian*.

## 6. EDUCATION AND ABSENCE OF CRIME IN

PETERBOROUGH.

At the recent Court of Assizes in Peterborough, the Hon. Chief Justice Draper, in his address to the Grand Jury, alluded to the fact that the present was the third time in which there was no criminal business, or none of serious import in this court. This happy circumstance might perhaps in part be attributed to the freedom from vice and impunity, from temptation which in rural districts existed to a greater degree than among the crowded population of cities. It was also to some extent owing to the extension of Education, and the tone of moral improvement which accompanies it. He would not say, however, that mere cultivation of the intellect would suffice. There must also be the knowledge and practice of the obligations of virtue and morality, and he inferred that to the influence of these in this community must be attributed the absence of crime which exists in other parts of the country.

## III. Papers on Reading and its influence.

### 1. BOOKS AS A MEANS OF DOING GOOD.

A method of doing good which is little appreciated by most Christians, is that of promoting the circulation of religious books. Not everyone has the ability or opportunity to bring the truth personally to those who need it, but he may put into use books, tracts, and papers, which present the choicest thoughts of the most gifted minds. We are acquainted with not a few instances where much good has been accomplished in this way.

In some cases pastors keep a supply of the best practical books to loan to the young and others who could not otherwise have access to them. We know cases where the same thing is done by pastors' wives, for the young ladies of their parishes. Some persons keep supplies of envelope tracts, which they enclose with letters of business to their correspondents. In hundreds of ways, and at a very trifling expense, one who loves to do good can thus address to his fellow-men the words which, with God's blessing, may save the soul.

We have been led to these remarks by a letter from a most estimable lady in one of our seminaries, describing the value of books as an auxiliary to the religious instructions of the institution, especially in time of revival. We take the liberty of subjoining it, as suggestive of what might be done by multitudes if they would employ the like instrumentality.

March 8th., 1864.—"My Dear Sir:—Had I known that the Lord told you I had need of 'Jerry and his Friends,' I should ere this have thanked you for obeying his voice in sending it to me. But I think it is not too late, even now, to thank you; and certainly not too late to tell you how much I value it, because I can use it so well in the service of the blessed Lord. I shall take great pleasure in securing the reading of it among our young ladies, and expect thereby to get it into many Sabbath-school libraries. I am thankful to see a book of this description, that is so distinguishing in regard to conversion. It is a pearl of price to place in the hands of the young, and we of riper years are glad to sit with them while they read and ponder.

"Since I saw you, I have had great delight in using your publications for the Lord. I have kept them in my room, and every day young ladies have been to me for books, for themselves, and for friends far away. Fathers and mothers, brothers at home and in the camp, sisters at home and at school, thoughtless and inquiring friends, as well as those already Christ's, have been remembered; nor have the little ones been forgotten. I have enjoyed more than I can tell you in talking of Christ with each one who has come to me, and trying to find something that the Lord would have her or her friend read. I have blessed you many times for these books; and as often asked the Master that to the making of such books there may be 'no end,' till we find ourselves singing the new song, because we are with Him who is 'worthy to take the book,' and the book-making.

Yours,

—Tract Journal.



## 2. RELIGIOUS AND INSTRUCTIVE LITERATURE.

The magazines of the last generation, such as "Blackwood," "Fraser," "The Monthly," &c., were of a secular character, and largely composed of light reading. They never inserted an exposition of scripture, or grappled directly with the vices or infidelity of the day, or called upon a soul to repent and believe. And this class of magazines continues and has its uses. But a new class of periodicals has appeared, of a decidedly religious character, which rivals the former in ability, and, we believe, surpasses it in circulation. "The Family Treasury," "Evangelical Christendom," "Christian Work," (formerly "The News of the Churches,") "Good Words," "The Sunday Magazine," "The Leisure Hour," "Sunday at Home,"\* and others of the same class, have enlisted in their service writers of the most distinguished ability and reputation, and give as much reading as the old magazines, and as good, even in a literary point of view, for about one-fourth of the price. Some of these latter publications also have a great advantage over the former, inasmuch as they are first issued in weekly parts, at one penny, and then in monthly parts, with a cover like the monthly magazines. The importance of these religious magazines, who can over-rate? There is scarcely a Christian family in Britain, probably, that does not read one or more of them, and by their means sound principles and scriptural knowledge are most widely diffused. The religious newspaper has not attained, in Britain, the same development as the religious magazine; whereas, in the States, it has long occupied the whole ground. English religious newspapers confine themselves very much to news, secular and religious, and to reports of religious meetings, with an editorial or two on the questions of the day. They have little or none of what is familiarly known as family reading, or of articles and selections of the useful knowledge class, in both of which American religious papers abound. Neither in America nor England, however, has the religious paper ventured to issue oftener than once a week, except in some few cases where the ordinary matter of a newspaper greatly preponderated. The *Scottish Guardian*, a very excellent paper, was long issued twice a week in Glasgow; but it sunk, for want of support, in the midst of hundreds of thousands who must have been favourable to it. The *Edinburgh Witness*, issued thrice a week, had more vitality so long as its celebrated founder, Hugh Miller, lived, and it even ventured, at one time, upon a daily issue, but the experiment proved a failure, and, after returning to its previous shape, it lingered awhile, and also disappeared, although, probably, one-half of the population of Scotland loved it.—*Montreal Witness*.

## 3. MAGAZINES IN ENGLAND.

It has recently been stated on good authority that the number of weekly and monthly magazines issued in England has increased from 600,000 to 6,900,090 per annum since the year 1831; and that the number of newspapers has increased from 38,548,000 to the almost incredible number of 546,000,000. Who can doubt the assertion that "The Pen is mightier than the Sword" in its influence upon the minds of the English nation? All these publications must find readers, else there would be no demand for their existence. Judging from these items, British literature is highly esteemed abroad and is not without its admirers at home. Intelligence cannot but characterize that nation which can furnish such an immense amount of reading matter for its people. The onward march of modern civilization is constantly facilitating the means of spreading knowledge amongst all nations of the earth, and it becomes Christians to avail themselves of these facilities, and especially that of the Press, in order to spread the glad tidings of the gospel and to infuse its noble principles into every heart and every nation.—*Woodstock Times*.

## 4. PERIODICALS IN SWITZERLAND.

There are now in Switzerland 345 periodicals, 185 of which are political, 22 literary and scientific, 20 religious (15 Protestant and 5 Catholic), and ten agricultural; 231 of them are published in the German language, 103 in French, and 8 in Italian; and 39 newspapers appear from six to seven times a-week.

## 5. WRITING FOR CHILDREN TO READ.

There is a great deal of writing done for children. It would not be easy to count all the grandfathers and uncles and aunts and cousins and sisters who have put their pens in motion in the hope "of entertaining and instructing the young," and perhaps turning an honest penny for themselves. The success of some has excited a brisk competition, and as the difficulties of the task have not been appreciated either by authors or publishers, it has come to pass that

\* The *Sunday Magazine* and all of these magazines may be obtained from Messrs. W. C. Chewett & Co., and of the other booksellers in Toronto.

a great deal is afloat in the shape of books and papers which considerate parents would not wish their children to read. Wrong notions of one's capacities in this line may perhaps be engendered in girl's boarding-schools, where trials of skill in the art of composition take place, and a standard of merit is established which is not recognized in the larger and more mixed school of the world.

The rapid multiplication of publishing agencies of various kinds may have stimulated the desire to be useful as authors, and the unhealthy craving which exists for novelty and excitement in the publications to which we refer, naturally suggests the style and materials to be employed.

The various religious publication offices—(each of the principal denominations of the country having one, and some two or three or more)—must be supplied. Many booksellers have gone largely into this class of books, and have liberally encouraged those who are disposed to add to the stock, so that in no single branch of book making, except perhaps text books for schools, are there probably so many pens engaged in writing, or so many presses in printing, as in the department of books for children and youth. And we may add that in no other class of publications are there as many instances of missing the mark as in Sunday-school library books. Among the common defects of such books are artificialness, or puerility of style; false views of the emotions and associations of childhood; lack of ingenuity in the framing of a story; improbability; monotony; but chiefly patch-work, by which we mean an unsuccessful attempt to dove-tail religious and moral truth with the incidents of child-life.

Some one says, "Books are often spoiled by over intrusive morals, or a too patronizing air; and perhaps the worst of all are those fashionable stories which introduce charming children, who gallop about on white ponies, and lecture and convert everybody in their villages, especially 'the oldest inhabitants.'"

We may not like this sweeping animadversion, but we must admit that the pictures of child-life which are exhibited in the common "run" of Sunday-school library books have been drawn with very little reference to any originals that we meet in town or country. Children themselves will tell us that if boys and girls who come to them in books should come to them in real flesh and blood, there would be no end to the curiosity with which they would be gazed at and followed.

Were all religious and charitable people that are surveying our work or machinery, we might perhaps be less concerned about our verdict; but we must submit to its examination by those who have no strong sympathy with our avowed object, and who form their judgment of what is unseen by what they see.

One of these lookers-on cautions us against "attempting to cheat children into religion. "Let us, above all things," he says, "determine to deal truthfully in this matter. Let us put before them images of the sort of excellence which they can attain, and warn them against the faults into which they are really liable to fall. Do not let us set before them imaginary goodness and vice, or talk which they cannot imitate without hypocrisy. There is not in the world a sight more beautiful than a Christian (?) child, filled with love and reverence, and just beginning, however faintly and fitfully to desire a knowledge of God and of His will. But such a child will not and cannot be the talkative and self-conscious little personage who figures so often in juvenile memoirs and obituaries. Nay, in just the proportion in which he is impressed with the sacredness of divine things, will he be absolutely disqualified from ever becoming such."\*

To whatever exceptions the reviewer's criticism may be open, there is enough of truth in it to make it well worth sober reflection.

Whether the kind people who are employed in writing what they want children to read will improve their handiwork, or whether good-natured children will take what is given them, asking no questions for conscience's sake, we shall see in due time. Perhaps in so laudable an effort fail us not.—*S. S. World*.

## 6. HOW TO SPEND WINTER EVENINGS.

The Caledonia Society at Montreal celebrated Hallowe'en by a grand gathering at the Crystal Palace. An interesting letter was read from the Hon. Mr. McGee, as to the best mode of spending the winter evenings, in which he says:—

"These long winter vacations of ours ought to bring in their own harvest, sown in the minds and memories of men, there to blossom and bear fruit while life may last. John Milton found, as he told his nephew Phillips, that his 'veins never flowed so freely' as between September and March, and that in a latitude not further south than ours. If, for us, also, this should be a season favorable to the cultivation and growth of thought and knowledge, we cannot certainly plead want of leisure as an excuse for remaining at a stand still."

\*London Qu. Rev., vol xiii, 497,

After alluding to the different literary and other institutions of the city, he suggested, as other modes of spending the evening, reading aloud, and reading with a purpose:—

"By reading with a purpose, I mean the exact opposite of reading to kill time. It is reading which may be made quite as interesting to many, as the other kind can be to one; it is not open to the reproach of selfishness, and its good fruits are manifold. It is especially applicable to books of history, travel, biography, and such historical novels as Sir Walter Scott's. I will illustrate what I mean, in this way: suppose a father or mother wishes to interest the Hugh Littlejohn of the household, and his brothers and sisters, in the story, say of King Robert Bruce. While the youthful reader is following his author, and all the audience are close up with their hero, what is easier than for *Pater* or *Mater Familias* to have a good map of Scotland on the table, exclaiming, from time to time: 'Here is Dumfries, where he slew Comyn!' 'here, near Perth, is where he narrowly escaped capture, in the woods of Methuen!' 'here is Rathlin, where he spent the winter of 1306, a fugitive, in exile!' 'here is Bannockburn, where, in 1314, Robert won his glorious victory!' This method of reading with a purpose would be a very valuable sort of fireside education, and might be applied as easily to Dr. Livingstone's travels in Africa, or to the historical books of the Bible, as to the 'Tales of a Grandfather.'

"As to reading aloud, I will only say this much for it, that to a young person having an ear for the music of our language, there can be no better or more natural teacher of elocution than the sound of his own or her own voice. It is as possible to make music from well cadenced English prose, as from the score of Verdi or Flotow; and it really is not creditable to the present state of taste amongst us, that we do not make a worthier use of that glorious instrument, of which we are all born performers—the language we speak and read, or, rather, which we too often murder and mutilate."

## 7. MY READING ROOMS, AND READING IN GENERAL.

Thomas Carlyle, in his incomparable essay on Voltaire, makes the following true statement, "Above all it is ever to be kept in mind, that not by material, but moral power, are men and their actions governed. How noiseless is thought! No rolling of drums, no tramp of squadrons, or immeasurable tumult of baggage-waggon attends its movements: in what obscure and sequestered places may the head be meditating, which is one day to be crowned with more than imperial authority, for kings and emperors will be among its ministering servants; it will rule not over, but *in* all heads, and with these, its solitary combinations of ideas, as with magic formulas, bend the world to its will! The time may come, when Napoleon himself will be better known for his laws than his battles; and when the victory of Waterloo will prove less momentous than the opening of the first Mechanics' Institute." Whatever tends to the expansion of the human intellect, the augmentation of mind power, and the refinement of thought and utterance, must be regarded evermore as a mighty moral and social force. We live in an intensely active and enquiring age, and the great cry of individuals as well as communities is, "give us mental aliment." This anxiety is both natural and relevant, and is perfectly in keeping with the original constitution of the human mind. It has also come to pass that no full, well-developed, or vigorous intellectual life can be lived now-a-days without great indebtedness to books. If a man be known as a thoughtful and appreciative lover of books, and as often asking their counsel, he will be held as a lover of wisdom; or, at least, his interest in books will be considered a pleasing sign of self-improving character. Full culture of the individual would seem impossible without the aid they alone can impart. A life of immense power of thought and action is ever associated with our highest literature. Books enlarge, enlighten, improve and empower us. The mind of the writer has laid its affluence of thought, recollection and hope at our feet. We are, by secret and silent contact, brought to sympathize with loftier minds; excitement, freedom, energy, are the result. Old mental limits are defined, old bondages crumble, and holding high the franchise of our individual liberty, we step to higher thought, deeper intuition; and, in laying aside an old self, assume a new and sprightlier manliness. Others, in offering to us *their* worth, have revealed to us our own. Plato is mightier than Cæsar, and the pen of the thinker than embattled battalions. Thrones and coronets, palaces and pyramids, rocks and mountains, are weaker than the world's best books. But reading is a work, a Herculean labour, and the reader must come to his book with a purpose, strong, determined and persevering, if he would read with the highest result. Reading, in the highest sense, is as necessarily a work of labour and solitude as is that of earnest thought. Deep mental life seeks seclusion—hides most purposely from vulgar gaze, that alone it may struggle for a body and a development. So it is with reading—read alone we must—with pains,

with patience, with oft-returning glance, for readings full effect upon our higher being. In reading a great and good book, we come in contact with a great and benevolent mind. The book itself was not a momentary growth—a mere efflorescence, but the result of close-bent, hard-strained, oft-foiled agony and effort. If, then, we would fully embrace thoughts, thus painful and agonistic in their birth, it is by no means a great thing that we should patiently, earnestly, anxiously seek their mastery and appropriation. Our thoughts will never be a reproduction of the author's we read, unless we are prepared to toil where they toiled, to groan where they groaned, and to writhe where they agonized. The merely desultory and miscellaneous reader seldom benefits either himself or others. By all he thus does he impairs his faculties, and teaches his memory to become treacherous. He reads much but knows little, his little "becomes beautifully less," until he becomes an absolute stranger to earnest and concentrated thought. His mind is always too much in haste to think, or reflect, or deliberate; he merely seeks to skim the surface, and hence he robs himself of the ability either to ratify or reverse the assumptions and conclusions of others. His memory becomes inert, his imagination folds its wing, his judgment droops and dies, he feels a momentary flash, and all is gone for ever.

Thus all the ends of reading are perverted; the price of knowledge, of wisdom, of endless delight, is in the hands of a fool, and the fool has nothing to show for his pains. It is an ominous augury when a man can sit down and devour a "New York Ledger," a sickly tale, or the last "novel," with the zest of a hungry hunter, and yet fight shy of a thoughtful and elevating book. Every determined self-improver has faculty enough to become a good reader. His object being power, stability, force of thought, "though baffled oft," he wins the prize. Reading becomes a mighty instrument, by which he throws a new complexion over his moral history, and secures to himself an ever-increasing vigour of soul. Public, boundless, and unending sympathies attach to the wise and judicious reader. In no partial, circumscribed and partizan spirit can he, without self-reproach, permit himself to live.

Books are the highest representative value of the world; and a conscientious traffic therein enriches and elevates the soul. It is the prerogative of books, to originate, to gather, to offer and to disperse truth to the world. A book with truth pulsing through it like a heart, is mighty in catholicity, and exhales and transfuses an odor of far-darting vitality. It may be indigenous to the consecrated heights of intellectual writing; but, as the low-lying rain-clouds would not discharge their moisture but for their electrical connection with the light clouds immediately above them, so of books which elevate and transform us. But for the formations in the refined upper atmosphere of poetry and sentiment, the *practical* thoughts which rain such beneficent influences on the world, could never send forth their gifts, and their energy. There are some individuals who can only deal with the practical; and the higher and more spiritual crystallizations of thought and poetry are so many roamings and foamings that have no utility or worth. And yet there would soon be a painful dearth of all good action were it not for this apparently unpractical thought. There is an essential poetry in the stars that shine, in the winds that sigh, in the rains and the rivers, in the fruits and the flowers, yea, in everything above and around us; and we envy not the man who can only see a town's pump in the pierian spring of the poet.—*Norfolk Messenger*.

## 8. READING HABITS.

Good mental habits should be cultivated by a wise supervision of a child's reading when out of school. Most children will read of their own accord if they can get hold of attractive books, and will fly from the comparative drudgery of the school to the interesting volume of travels, tales, or adventures, which stimulates the imagination and requires no effort. This tendency must be turned to good account, and prevented from becoming a source of evil. Travels and adventures, if well selected and well read, are, of course, useful; and the same may be said of some tales. But never, perhaps, was care in the selection of books, especially of those comprised under the general term of "light literature," more necessary than in the present day. The flippant tone of some, the disgusting slang of others, the exaggerated colouring of another class, are, to the tender and impressible mind of the child, like attractive poison. The imagination, over-stimulated, becomes jaded, and demands more extravagant incidents, profounder mysteries, and darker horrors. And it is needless to say that where this is the case, the inclination, and often not only the inclination, but, for a time, the capacity, for sound, good reading, is lost. What is more sad than to find young people blind to the attraction of some of the best specimens of English literature—indeed, utterly ignorant of it—while reading with morbid avidity second and third-rate works of exciting fiction? This must be the parent's care. "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes," is a resolve which ought to apply especially

to books. Many a man has had through life to mourn the day when, in the impressive time of his youth, he met with a bad book. The mind becomes enfeebled, the moral tone lowered, and the life corrupted, by access to vicious literature in early life.—*Christian Home Life.*

#### IV. Papers on Libraries and Books.

##### 1. PRACTICAL VALUE OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

A teacher who is conversant with the philosophy of education perfectly recognizes the fact, that there are auxiliary agencies outside of the regular work of the school-room which are of great importance in assisting him to train the minds and hearts of his pupils; and among these agencies a well-selected school library will be found to hold a prominent place. Any teacher, whose scholars have been fortunate enough to have access to a collection of good books, will readily agree to this; and indeed hardly anybody will dispute it. But we, nevertheless, find very few school libraries; in fact they are exceedingly few and far between. Now, there are several reasons for this, one of the principal of which is, that teachers generally have too lofty an idea of the matter. I propose in this brief article to lay before those of the teachers who read our *Journal* a few practical suggestions in relation to school libraries, which, it is hoped, may be productive at least of some reflection upon the subject. It is one of great interest to me, for during the period of my experience as a teacher, I have hardly ever been in charge of a school where there was not a library; and I can also speak from experience of the beneficial effects upon scholars.

And first, a few words upon the results to be expected: We all know that one great evil to be dreaded in schools is the habit of routine, into which scholars so readily fall—the inclination to learn just what is set down for them, and to consider everything once recited as something to be dismissed from their minds—a *receptive* habit of mind, if I may so express it, waiting to have knowledge poured into their minds, instead of raising their own mental powers to the best advantage, and by that very use, learning constantly to use them better. Every wide-awake teacher knows this tendency perfectly, and accordingly sets himself at work to counteract it. He knows very well that the great aim of education is to cultivate and draw forth the powers of the mind—to awaken a consciousness of its own strength, and to teach the pupil *how* to learn. In aid of this he draws constantly upon the exhaustless stores of his well-trained intellect, and by every means in his power he assists the healthy growth of the intellect of his scholars. Now, a collection of well-chosen books are so many silent helpers in this work—they are doing quietly the work of the teacher, and he knows and appreciates their value. Again, it is of great benefit to establish a habit of reading in youth. Many young persons have been kept from vicious amusements by a taste for reading, and have been saved from follies into which others have fallen, not so much from perverted inclinations as from that restlessness of youth which *must* be occupied in something, and for want of some safe employment turns to that which is hurtful. The general information, too, of scholars is of course greatly increased by reading—a matter of much importance, as their range of thought is correspondingly widened.

But I am aware that many who will agree to all this, will still be disposed to think that the establishment of a library for their schools would be next to impossible. Well, it is not such a difficult matter. Let us see. How many boys are there who could not easily get fifty cents or a dollar to buy a book? Now, let ten, fifteen, or twenty boys and girls contribute no more than what each would be willing to spend to purchase a single volume, and lo, the result is a library! Instead of each one having the reading of a single book he has the reading of twenty. It is only the old principle of association, of joint effort, and with this advantage—that the efforts of each one are multiplied, as it were, by the whole number; in fact, the matter only needs to be understood to be appreciated. There is not a school in the Country where a beginning may not be made—a beginning, too, which will, in all probability, lead to valuable results. A dozen well-chosen books in a school will be enough to awaken a taste for reading, which will be very likely to lead to the procuring of another dozen, and so on indefinitely.

It is, however a matter of great importance that books for a school library should be selected with judgment. They must not be too light nor too heavy. They *must* be interesting, or those for whose benefit they are intended will not read them—a fact of which very many excellent people who have had the selection of Sabbath-school libraries have seemed oblivious. Any well-informed teacher will be able to make such a selection by a little care and effort. In some cases, where it does not seem easy to awaken an interest in the subject, the purchase of a half a dozen volumes by the teacher, to be loaned to the scholars, would doubtless be followed by the desired effect.

There are many districts where a small amount of money could be raised by subscription, sufficient to give a good start to a library; but the best method, and one which is available almost everywhere, is that referred to above—union of resources. It is to be hoped that teachers will give more attention to the matter than they have hitherto done. There is no good reason why there should not be a library in every well-established school in the Country—a condition of things which would cause our worthy and indefatigable Superintendent, with whom the matter has been one of deep attention, to rejoice sincerely—knowing, as he does, how much it would raise the character and efficiency of the whole educational system of the Country.—*D. C. S., in California Teacher.*

##### 2. LORD STANLEY ON THE VALUE OF FREE LIBRARIES.

Amongst the more marked and better tendencies of the present age is a disposition to place those amenities and conveniences of civilization which before were accounted to be only for the wealthy few, within the reach of the humble many. This is seen in the means of locomotion, both in town and country, in many of our higher amusements, and last, and perhaps greatest, in our cheapened literature. Yet fabulously cheap as really good books have become, something more remains to be done. So long as the intellect remains sound and clear, the appetite for reading, either for instruction or entertainment never ceases. Who is there that has not seen the placid and venerable countenance of old age, lighted up with an evening ray of pleasure, as, with spectacles on nose, the page of some old and favorite divine, or some work of modern discovery, making the researches of youth seem obsolete was perused; or possibly once again returning to the story of Robiusion Crusoe, which charmed half a century ago. But it is more particularly for the literary requirements of youth and middle age that something beyond cheap books is required. However low priced the book may be, the large private library remains, and ever must remain, beyond the reach of the working man. How is this to be remedied? Seemingly by means of the establishment of free libraries in large towns and cities, and such as we hope yet to see founded in Montreal. Of these England gives us several noble examples, and amongst the latest is the Birmingham Central Free Library, which has been inaugurated during the meeting of the British Association in that town. On that occasion Lord Stanley, eldest son of the Earl of Derby, and who is one of the most promising young men amongst the English aristocracy, and indeed, amongst the numerous educated class in Britain, said many good things, and of which, as his observations are almost equally applicable to a large proportion of our community as to that of Birmingham (Eng.), we here produce some extracts.

Speaking of the necessity of these free libraries in the midst of a populous town he says:

“And yet, when one comes to think of it, where was there ever a state of things in which (to drop the educational view of the subject for a moment) rational amusement was more needed than in these vast industrial centres? Consider our climate; look at the country we have round about; and what I say of this place applies equally to Manchester, to Glasgow, or any other great manufacturing town. Take the case of a man who lives it may be alone in a lodging, or with his family in a small house. I do not take an extreme case; I do not speak of a very poor man. I suppose he may have all that is requisite for decency, and even for some degree of comfort. When his day's work is over, where is he to go? It is not cheerful for a man to oscillate backwards and forwards with the regularity of a pendulum twelve times a week from his bedroom to the workshop in the morning, and from the workshop to his bedroom in the evening. It is not pleasant—at any rate it is not much to my taste—to walk about the streets of a manufacturing town after dark, especially on a drizzling November evening, and in an atmosphere which, notwithstanding the Smoke Prevention Act, can never be quite pure.—(Hear, hear.) Cheap clubs may do much; I hope, as I think, that we shall have many more of them. Still at the present time very few of them exist. There seem to be many practical difficulties in the way of their establishment, and as a matter of fact they are institutions for a single class; and your Mayor has properly and wisely reminded you that an institution of this kind is not for the exclusive benefit of the working or any other class, it is for the benefit of all classes impartially.—(Hear, hear.) I say, without fear of contradiction, that a free reading-room, and, what I regard as more important, a free lending library, are conveniences for the poorer part of the community for which a real demand exists, and which, when once they have been fairly set on foot, will not be given up for want of support.—(Hear, hear.) Probably there was never a larger number than at the present time of educated persons of comparatively small means. The addition to the local burdens by the establishment of such institutions as this is nothing. The addition to general enjoyment is not insignificant; and when I say to



general enjoyment I might say to general morality also, for all of us know and can understand how much immorality springs from that sheer craving for excitement of some kind which is apt to arise in the minds of impressionable persons engaged in monotonous employment, and with no sufficient mental occupation.—(Hear, hear.) I have spoken of instructions of this kind as mainly intended to give pleasure of a reasonable and respectable kind. I think that is practically their chief, though it is far from being their only function. Real and earnest students are not very many, numerically speaking, in any rank of life,—(hear, hear.); and if, on the one hand, the greater spread of instruction tends to multiply the number of such, still, on the other hand, it must not be forgotten that the demands of practical life are in the present day more absorbing than ever they were before. Still, of real and earnest students you will have some; and it is hard to say how much labor may be spared to such men by giving them access at once and easily to the works on the subjects in which they are interested.”

It has often struck us that much valuable time is sometimes wasted by sober and ingenious working-men in inventing what has already been invented; a circumstance of which they are ignorant, but which when once discovered almost overwhelms them with disappointment. In reference to this class, and a remedy for their misapplication of time and talent, his Lordship says:

“So also with regard to a very numerous class and not a wealthy one; I mean inventors or would-be inventors. They, by referring to the specifications of the Patent Office, which, I presume you have, here, may see what is new, and what is not new; and they may be saved from that fate which to my knowledge, has not unfrequently befallen ingenious and self-taught men, that of inventing over again, of re-discovering, of course to their great disappointment when they find that what they have produced was well known already.”

He has great confidence in the utility of the lending part of the library scheme, and says:

“I have greater faith in the practical utility of this than in any other part of the scheme. There are many persons who, for various reasons, are not likely to frequent a reading room. Some think their clothes are not good enough; some live too far off, and think they cannot spare the time; others, women especially, feel a certain shyness in coming alone into a crowded hall. I don't attach much weight to any of those reasons, but still they will operate on a certain number of people. There is also this to consider: however largely a reading-room may be used, its space is, by the nature of the case, limited, whereas there is no limit whatever to the circulation of books among the population when those books are given out to be read at home. I do not know whether it is possible, but if it be so, I think it will be very desirable, that works should be lent not merely to individuals, but also to all such clubs,

or institutions, or associations, as are willing to use them, of course the same security being taken for their proper treatment and restoration as is taken when they are lent to individuals. The last thing I shall say is that I don't think we ought to be annoyed or disappointed if it turns out here as it does in other places and very probably may here, that the largest demand is for works of fiction. (Applause.) Of course one should regret it if the demand were confined exclusively to such works. We all sympathize in the wish expressed by the Mayor that you may have in this institution a really valuable collection, for purposes of reference, of standard works,—a collection which may not be unworthy of one of the greatest of English towns. But if it should turn out that the most popular works for general circulation are works of fiction, I don't think that it is any reason for disappointment, or for saying your scheme is a failure. I never understood why it is so much the practice on occasions of this kind for educated men, who themselves enjoy a good novel as well as anybody—(hear, hear),—to disparage its popularity. I never heard that, as a general rule among the educated classes, men after a hard day's work were much in the habit of sitting down to pursue abstruse historical inquiries, or to solve mathematical problems. Of course there will be a certain number of men whose love of knowledge and science is genuine and sincere. Provide by all means for them; but what I say is, don't be ashamed, don't think you are yielding too much to the weakness of humanity, if you make large and liberal provision for those, who, in frequenting an institution of this kind, look almost wholly for innocent and not wholly useless enjoyment. (Hear, hear.) Of all kinds of literature I take it works of fiction are those in which the greatest and most marked improvement has taken place within the last fifty years; and as studies of life and manners they may, in their way, be quite as useful as some works of a higher and more pretentious character. (Hear, hear.) Then don't let us grudge amusement to those who come here solely for that purpose. Let us be satisfied if it is harmless, as in 999 cases out of a thousand we may be sure it will be. Life is to many of us engaged in monotonous and mechanical employments a dull and common-place affair; and with our English climate we are none the worse, but all the better, morally as well as materially, for a little sunshine.”

There is no doubt much truth in the above remarks by His Lordship relative to works of fiction. The human mind, especially during youth, does demand some sacrifice to the imagination and fancy; and if in these works the pictures presented be pure, the sentiments sound and elevating, and the tone of the composition moral, with the tacit, if not explicit, acknowledgment of a yet higher influence, it were foolish to proscribe them. The evil to be guarded against is that they shall not be allowed to occupy too much of the leisure of life, and, by being indulged in to excess, enervate, instead of refresh, the mind.—*Montreal Witness.*

3. PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN UPPER CANADA. 1853—1864.

In accordance with our annual custom, we give in this Number of the *Journal of Education* the following full and interesting Statement of the Number and Classification of Public Library and Prize Books sent out from the Depository of the Upper Canada Educational Department, from 1853 to 1864 inclusive.

No. of Volumes sent out during the year.	Total Volumes of Library Books	History.	Zoology and Physiology.	Botany.	Phenomena.	Physical Science.	Geology.	Natural Philosophy and Manufactures.	Chemistry.	Agricultural Chemistry.	Practical Agriculture.	Literature.	Voyages, &c.	Biography.	Tales & Sketches Practical Life.	Teachers' Library	Prize Books.	Grand Total Library and Prize Books.
1853.....	21922	4158	1602	287	906	526	234	940	132	192	807	2694	1141	2917	5178	208	.....	21922
1854.....	66711	10633	5532	1030	2172	1351	686	4780	629	321	3235	5764	4350	6393	19307	578	.....	66711
1855.....	28659	5475	2053	318	558	663	200	1808	207	76	1452	3361	2926	3081	6049	432	.....	28659
1856.....	18669	2498	652	118	397	287	77	660	55	31	418	1523	1019	1844	3832	258	.....	18669
1857.....	29833	5295	1763	321	632	817	195	1729	134	67	1257	2391	2253	3516	9219	244	.....	29833
1858.....	7587	1567	503	86	152	98	61	276	27	2	186	713	843	744	2245	84	.....	7587
1859.....	9308	1670	551	136	209	192	130	432	87	18	300	1169	714	1127	2401	172	.....	9308
1860.....	9072	1561	475	144	223	200	100	526	61	17	339	852	797	1115	2520	142	.....	9072
1861.....	6488	1273	302	59	101	72	64	223	36	2	172	601	760	880	1826	117	.....	6488
1862.....	5599	927	244	45	99	48	75	211	45	24	165	412	661	830	1706	112	.....	5599
1863.....	6274	707	304	42	97	80	67	282	26	6	202	547	652	864	2286	112	.....	6274
1864.....	3239	567	138	11	47	38	27	129	7	..	87	315	281	430	1107	55	.....	3239
Totals.....	208361	36331	14119	2597	5593	4367	1866	11996	1446	756	8620	20342	16397	23741	57676	2514	.....	208361

Deduct volumes returned for exchange, &c. .... 616

Volumes sent to Mechanics' Institutes, &c, not included in the above..... 8293

Grand Total Library Books, &c., despatched up to 31st December, 1864 ..... 382019

The Mechanics' Institutes which have received Libraries from the Depository, and the number of volumes sent to each, are, in alphabetical order, as follows:

				Vols.	Years.					Vols.	Years.
Baltimore				75	1858	Smith's Falls				73	1857-8
Berlin				158	1855	St. Catharines				108	1854-9
Chatham				313	1853-4	Streetsville				162	1860-3
Cobourg				350	1856	Thorold				300	1858
Collingwood				46	1857	Toronto				410	1856-61
Drummondville				6	1859	Vankleekhill				106	1858
Fonthill				137	1858	Whitby				267	1857-8-9-60-1
Lindsay				106	1858						
Greenwood				101	1862						
Guelph				372	1853-4						
Huntingdon, L.C.				150	1855						
Milton				68	1858						
Mount Forest				106	1860						
Napanee				27	1857						
Newmarket				55	1858-9						
Oakville				250	1856						
Pickering				41	1861						
Port Perry				109	1858						
						Total					
						3896					
Books were also sent to the—											
						Leeds and Grenville Agricultural Society			208	1855	
						Educational Department, L.C.			3103	1860-1	
						McGill College, Montreal			200	1857	
						Sarnia Dialectic Society			82	1858	
						Southwold Agricultural Society			23	1856	
						Various other Institutions			781	1851-8-60	
						8293					

3. PRISON AND ASYLUM LIBRARIES IN UPPER CANADA.

The following table shews the number of volumes sent to various Prisons, &c., during the years 1856-64:

Prison and Asylum Libraries.	Amount received.	Legislative Appo'ment.	Total.	Vols	Amount received.	Legislative Appo'ment.	Total.	Vols
1856:	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.		\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	
Peterborough Jail	22 16½	22 16½	44 33	94	20 00	20 00	40 00	84
Toronto Jail	131 63	131 63	263 26	616	25 16	25 16	50 32	87
Woodstock Jail	20 00	20 00	40 00	71	5 00	5 00	10 00	14
	173 79½	173 79½	347 59	781	20 00	20 00	40 00	82
1857:					10 00	10 00	20 00	36
Lanark and Renfrew Jail	60 00	60 00	120 00	282	47 66	47 66	95 32	150
Provincial Penitentiary	46 13	46 13	92 26	174				
Whitby Jail	20 00	20 00	40 00	106				
	126 13	126 13	252 26	562				
1858:								
Provincial Penitentiary	100 00	100 00	200 00	251				
1859:								
Brockville Jail	40 00	40 00	80 00	154				
Guelph Jail	20 00	20 00	40 00	94				
Pictou Jail	10 00	10 00	20 00	43				
Sarnia Jail	25 00	25 00	50 00	93				
Woodstock Jail	19 75	19 75	39 50	82				
Reforj Prison, Penetanguishene	17 00	17 00	34 00	96				
	131 75	131 75	263 50	562				
1860:								
Barrie Jail	20 00	20 00	40 00	84				
Goderich Jail	25 16	25 16	50 32	87				
London Jail	5 00	5 00	10 00	14				
Peterborough Jail	20 00	20 00	40 00	82				
Whitby Jail	10 00	10 00	20 00	36				
Reforj Prison, Penetanguishene	47 66	47 66	95 32	150				
	127 82	127 82	255 64	453				
1861:								
Grey Jail	10 00	10 00	20 00	47				
1862:								
Provincial Penitentiary	55 00	55 00	110 00	167				
1863:								
Norfolk Jail	25 00	25 00	50 00	101				
London Jail	40 00	40 00	80 00	142				
1864:								
Victoria County Jail	10 00	10 00	20 00	37				
1858:								
Provincial Lunatic Asylum	111 93½	111 93½	223 87	386				
1860:								
Malden Lunatic Asylum	52 00	52 00	104 00	176				

PRISON AND ASYLUM LIBRARIES—Continued.

	Amount received.	Legislative Appo'ment.	Total.	Vols
RECAPITULATION:	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	
For the year 1856	173 79½	173 79½	347 59	781
For the year 1857	126 13	126 13	252 26	562
For the year 1858	100 00	100 00	200 00	251
For the year 1859	131 75	131 75	263 50	562
For the year 1860	127 82	127 82	255 64	453
For the year 1861	10 00	10 00	20 00	47
For the year 1862	55 00	55 00	110 00	167
For the year 1863	65 00	65 00	130 00	243
For the year 1864	10 00	10 00	20 00	37
Lunatic Asylums, as above, 1858.	111 93½	111 93½	223 87	386
" " " 1860	52 00	52 00	104 00	176
	\$963 43	\$963 43		
Grand total			\$1926 86	3665

The following Statistical Table has been compiled from the "Trade and Navigation Returns" for the years specified, shewing the gross value of books (not maps or school apparatus) imported into Canada. This table proves conclusively how incorrect is the statement that the operations of the Educational Depository interfere with the interests of the booksellers:\*

\* We extract the following from the *Annual Report of the Board of Trade of Toronto, Canada West*, for 1862, compiled by Mr. E. Wyman: "The year's business in this branch of trade has been quite satisfactory. Though perhaps less in extent, in common with other departments, it has been quite as profitable if not more so than in former years, while not a few features have developed themselves which are not only advantageous to the legitimate trade, but are gratifying to every well wisher of sound

literature in the province. The improvement in the circumstances, capacity, and general business ability of those in the trade, which we have noted from year to year, has continued to manifest itself, and we see now, in almost every town, a bookseller or two conducting business on a sound basis, with more capital than ever before, and a better knowledge of the trade, and of business principles generally. This is evinced most in the improved credit in which the retail trade stands, in the promptitude with which engagements are met, and in the judicious care with which stocks are selected and curtailed. As a distinct branch, the trade is not only well established, but that it is rapidly assuming a healthy and prosperous condition. An equally gratifying fact is found in the improved character of the works introduced into general circulation. For years the country has been flooded with the lowest and most trashy class of literature from the American press. Books whose only merit was their bulk and binding, have been hawked into every nook of the province by a migratory tribe of itinerant pedlars. Sometimes a stray work of utility has been found among the stock, but for the most part the special efforts of these book hawkers have been directed to the disposing of some very superficial and uninteresting volumes, which, if even read, would leave the reader a trifle less wise than when he commenced them. We are happy to say that this style of business is rapidly on the decline, and that works from the best publishing houses, and sold through the legitimate trade, are finding their way into many sections of the country, and meeting a largely increased sale. We are not by any means, however, depreciating the efforts of the book pedlars to enlighten the world; they are very useful people, and, if their efforts are only properly directed, they may do great good. They are improving in the books which they present to the public, and our dealers will lose nothing by encouraging them, so long as their wares are of a good class. In periodical literature, however, the greatest change is observable—not only in the largely increased demand, but in the improved character of the issues sold. We are happy to say that neither the *New York Ledger* nor the *Mercury* is increasing its circulation in Canada. Even *Harpers Magazine* is not gaining ground. On the other hand, there is a large and growing sale for such periodicals as *Good Words*, a London publication of the best class, the *Family Treasury*, the *Churchman's Magazine*, the *Cornhill*, *All the Year Round*, &c. &c., and we are glad to know that the reduction in the price of the *London Illustrated News* is likely to increase largely its circulation in Canada. These facts present some indications of a change for the better in the literary taste of Canada. This improvement is in no small degree attributable to the persistent and unwearied exertions of our wholesale importers, and the advantages which they enjoy in close connection with first class British publishing houses. We hope, and indeed are certain, that they will be well compensated for their efforts. In this connection we are glad to notice that we are likely to have established amongst us a branch of an extensive and highly respectable Scotch firm, for the purpose not only of re-issuing in much approved style our leading text and school books, but for the publication of other works of merit that may offer. We have long needed an establishment of this character, and through its operations we may hope to see Canadian Literature take a higher place in the world of letters. With long experience, ample means and the best facilities are commanded by the house in question, and we are sure their advent here will be hailed with pleasure. "The business in stationery has been fairly remunerative during the year. The

advance in materials for paper, as well as a heavy war tax on the manufacture itself, has largely enhanced the value of all descriptions in the United States, independently of the apparent increase in price due to the depreciation of the currency. The consequence is that, as compared with former rates, American stationery is fully 30 per cent. dearer. We have imported much less than the usual amount, substituting English goods, which are of a much better class. It so happens that the prices of the latter are favouring the buyer, as the abolition of the duty on paper has at length begun to cheapen it. It is only recently that there has been any decline in the article, notwithstanding a universal expectation that when the tax was removed the price would fall. Speculation and a largely enhanced demand for cheap periodicals, only a few of which comparatively have lived beyond the year, kept the rates up to nearly the old level, until within the past three months. The tendency is now downward, and we shall, hereafter, import stationery stock from the mother country more largely than before.

"The importations of books for the year amount to \$118,326, against \$155,842 last year."

Year.	Value of books entered at Ports in Lower Canada.	Value of books entered at Ports in Upper Canada.	Total value of books imported into the Province.	Proportion imported for the Educational Department of Upper Canada.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1850.....	101880	141700	243580	84
1851.....	120700	171732	292432	3296
1852.....	141176	159268	300444	1288
1853.....	158700	254280	412980	22764
1854.....	171452	307808	479260	44060
1855.....	194356	338792	533148	25624
1856.....	208636	427992	636628	10208
1857.....	224400	309172	533572	16028
1858.....	171255	191942	363197	10692
1859.....	139057	184304	323361	5308
1860.....	155604	252504	408108	8846
1861.....	185612	344621	530233	7782
1862.....	183987	249234	433221	7800
1863.....	184652	276673	461325	4085
1864.....	93308	127233	220541	4668
1850—1864	\$2434775	\$3737255	\$6172030	\$172533

N.B.—Up to 1854, the "Trade and Navigation Returns" give the value on books entered at every port in Canada separately; after that year, the Report gives the names of the principal ports only, and the rest as "Other Ports." In 1854, the proportion entered in Lower Canada was within a fraction of the third part of the whole, and accordingly, in compiling this table for the years 1855—1864, the value entered in "Other Ports" is divided between Upper and Lower Canada, in the proportion of two-thirds to the former and one-third to the latter.

TABLE shewing the value of articles sent out from the Educational Depository during the years 1851 to 1864 inclusive:

YEAR.	Articles on which the 100 per cent. has been apportioned from the Legislative Grant.		Articles sold at Catalogue prices, without any apportionment from the Legislative Grant.	Total value of Library, Prize, and School Books, Maps, and Apparatus despatched.
	Public School Library Books.	Maps, Apparatus, and Prize Books.		
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
1851.....	.....	.....	1,414 25	1,414 25
1852.....	.....	.....	2,981 13	2,981 13
1853.....	.....	.....	4,233 14	4,233 14
1854.....	51,376 23	.....	5,514 18	56,890 41
1855.....	9,947 15	4,655 53	4,389 40	18,992 08
1856.....	7,205 62	9,320 87	5,726 76	22,253 25
1857.....	16,200 92	18,118 28	6,451 20	40,770 40
1858.....	3,982 99	11,810 28	6,972 05	22,765 32
1859.....	5,805 64	11,905 02	6,679 30	24,389 96
1860.....	5,289 56	16,832 17	5,416 64	27,538 37
1861.....	4,084 22	16,251 14	4,894 52	25,229 88
1862.....	3,272 88	16,193 78	4,844 17	24,310 83
1863.....	4,022 46	15,886 88	3,461 48	23,370 82
1864.....	1,930 94	17,260 28	4,454 02	23,645 24
Total..	\$113,118 61	\$138,234 23	67,432 24	\$318,785 08

4. LIBRARY OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

We yesterday had the pleasure of looking over the splendid Library of the Great Western Railway. The room devoted to the Library is in the building occupied by the Stores Department, and is plainly but substantially fitted up for the purpose. The manner of its organization is somewhat as follows: A sum of money had been accumulating in various ways, principally from fines received. This sum, which amounted to about \$1,500, the Directors granted for the purchase of a library. Nearly all the scientific works are English publications, many of them very expensive, though comparatively speaking few in number, they cost nearly as much as all the other works put together, most of them being richly illustrated. The works of reference are particularly complete, and are all the

newest publications. There are about 1,700 volumes in the library at present, and additions are to be made when practicable. The annual subscription is placed at the nominal sum of one dollar, in order that every employee of the Company may be enabled to become a member of the Association.—*Hamilton Spectator.*

5. FREE LIBRARY OF REFERENCE OF THE BOARD OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES FOR U. C.

Owing to other demands on the funds of the Board, but comparatively few additions have been made to the Library during the year. The total number of volumes on the shelves at last report was 1,171; added during the year 102; total number now in Library 1,273; comprising British, American, and Canadian Specifications and Plates of Patents, 584 vols.; Statutes, Journals and other Parliamentary Publications, 167 vols.; Transactions of Societies, 33 vols.; and of the latest Cyclopedias and Standard Works on Architecture, Decoration, Designing, Engineering and Mechanics, Manufactures and Trades, and General Science, 489 vols. Of these your Committee acknowledge donations from the United States Patent Office of 6 vols. (in duplicate); from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 vol.; from the Smithsonian Institution, 1 vol.; from the Board of Agriculture for Upper Canada, 3 vols.; and from the heads of departments of the Government of this Province, the regular transmission to the Rooms of the Statutes, Journals, Sessional Papers, Blue Books, and other Parliamentary documents. The library has been regularly kept open to the public from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. each day; and on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7 till 10 o'clock, to afford to persons engaged in industrial pursuits the opportunity of consulting the works it contains.—*Report of Board.*

6. DEAR BOOKS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Books will, perhaps, never again be as cheap in the United States as they were before the war, and never ought to be. The excessive cheapness of American books originated at the time when nearly all our publications were reprints of English works, which paid no copyright, and were, consequently, sold for little more than the cost of manufacturing them. When American writers began to offer works to publishers, they found the market glutted with reprints, and purchasers accustomed to the prices at which stolen goods are usually sold. No one was in the habit of considering the claims of an author. It seemed natural enough to pay the paper maker, the printer, and the binder. It was also supposed that the publisher should gain a little. But the author! Why should he expect any advantage? He was an unknown person in the trade. The author himself fell into this way of thinking, and almost felt that he was robbing an honest tradesman when he received his pittance.

The poor man, however, had one chance of getting a respectable compensation. Books being very cheap, and public libraries few, almost everyone that wanted a book bought it, and, hence, a new work occasionally met with a very large sale; so that a few cents upon each copy yielded a considerable return.

Luck of this kind was exceedingly rare, and the sale of even the most successful publications was not half as large as the public were given to understand. Advertisements told a story that differed immensely from the publisher's ledger. "Fifty thousand copies ordered previous to publication!" Beloved reader, we assert, without the slightest fear of contradiction, that such an event never occurred in the whole history of the book trade, from the days of King Solomon to the present hour. Fifty thousand copies! The works of the cost of one dollar which have been sold to the extent of fifty thousand copies in the first year, can be counted on the fingers of the hand. If a list could be here presented of the actual sale of the fifty best known and most successful publications of the last ten years, booksellers themselves would be astounded at the smallness of the figures. We are not now speaking of School books, nor of works forced upon a long-suffering people by an army of subscription agents, but of literary productions published legitimately, and placed fairly upon booksellers' counters for the public to buy or let alone as the public saw fit.

The business of publishing miscellaneous books had become the merest lottery. There were just enough prizes in the game to lure publishers to their ruin. When a duodecimo volume could be manufactured for thirty cents, and might attain a sale of fifteen thousand copies at eighty-five cents, and when the success of a book appeared to depend upon the chance humor of the public at the moment, every description of pen-and-scissorsed trash was rushed through the press. When the first cable was laid, for example, two enterprising gentlemen of the press made a book about it in ten days, and the publisher had it for sale in three weeks—just in time for the failure of the cable to kill the book. We have heard a publisher boast, as of a great and most creditable achievement, that he once had copies for sale, of a biographical work of 460 pages, in six weeks after he

had suggested the subject to the writer. Writer do we say! There was scarcely any writing in it. Out of the four hundred and sixty pages, three hundred and ninety-two were scissored from newspaper reports of the interminable speeches of the illustrious deceased.

This was a ruinous system to publishers. Before the war came to disturb the course of trade, the shores were strewn with the wrecks of famous publishing houses, whose advertisements were known wherever newspapers were read. It was shown on the books of one of these establishments that, in the course of about seven years, the firm had published three hundred works, and sets of works, and that of this enormous number only about twenty-five had been fairly remunerative; while, for the three last years of the firm's existence, every enterprise had resulted in loss.

Thank heaven, this is all over! The high price of material and labor, and the ingenious variety of taxes with which books are burthened, together with the failure of most of the trash-publishing houses, has put a stop to the issue of newspaper cuttings in book form, while the vast circulation of the *Ledger* supplies the sensational story-reading public with as much fiction as it has stomach for, at the moderate charge of six cents a week, with poetry, biography, historical narrative, and essays thrown in.

There is a chance now that a book will once more be a *book*, and the business of publishing books more safe and legitimate. Of all the vocations of man, that of publishing miscellaneous works is, perhaps, the most difficult. Nor are its rewards as great as those of far easier trades. There is reason to hope, however, now that the business is in few hands, and those experienced, with heavy purses within reach, that the business will be at least a *business*, not a game of hazard. Publishers, we notice, are already turning their attention to the production of superior editions of standard works, and the "sensation" business is almost confined to dealers in twenty-five cent ware.

No one need fear that the high price of books will limit their circulation. If a less number of copies are bought, it does not follow that fewer people will read them. The time was when there was not a daily paper in England of a lower price than ten cents, but every man could have an hour's reading of the *Times* for two cents. The paper was left at the hour agreed upon, called for an hour later, and passed into another reader; and, at the close of the day, after having served half a dozen families in town, it was sent to the country, where it continued its course until it was read to pieces. A number of the *Edinburgh Review* costs in England six shillings sterling, but in almost every town and neighborhood there exists little clubs for taking the reviews and magazines in common, by which, for a few shillings per annum, a family has the reading of all the reviews and magazines. Circulating libraries of immense extent, are flourishing in all the great cities, which supply reading to the whole empire for one guinea a year to each subscriber.

In the United States we look to see a prodigious and immediate increase to the number of public libraries on the excellent, self-sustaining system devised by Franklin, and exemplified in the Mercantile Libraries of all our large cities. Next to a good system of common schools, the most valuable educating influences are well-conducted, self-supporting town and village libraries. No village of fifty families should be content to remain another year without one. The cost of one duodecimo volume, which is now two dollars, can secure to every family the reading of all the best new books for a year. Do not wait for a rich man to give a large sum of money to start your library. The most vigorous and useful institutions of every kind are those that are conducted on business principles by men of business—institutions that pay their way, collect their debts, and give a fair equivalent for what they receive—institutions that ask no favor and grant no favors.

The power of a vigorously conducted library is something immeasurable. Let there be a good library in every town in the United States, and every book that appears which has matter in it to interest the people, will reach the entire reading public within a year. The existence of such libraries, so far from being prejudicial to the book-trade, gives it both stability and expansion. Where there are most public libraries, there are most private libraries also. Where the taste for reading is most general, there are the most people who desire to possess books. The libraries themselves take a large number of copies—enough to secure the publisher against loss upon many books. In London, there is a library that has taken fifteen hundred copies of a five dollar book, and there is one in Boston which has sometimes bought as many as two hundred.

We regard the increased cost of books as a great good in many ways, and we hope never again to see the country deluged with printed trash that would be dear if it were given away. The future of the book-trade demands but two things: international copyright and universal public libraries. If, by-and-by materials and labor should again be so cheap as to tempt the issue of indigested and worthless publications, we hope that the improved taste of the public

and the increased intelligence and public spirit of publishers will conspire to forbid such enterprises.—*New York Weekly Review*.

## 7. MEDIEVAL BOOK-MAKING.

Even so early as the seventh century, it thus would seem that there were certain persons in the several monasteries who were generally employed as scribes. But it was not till two ages later that we find undoubted traces of regular book-manufactories in connection with the monasteries. Each considerable monastery, after the Norman invasion, had a Scriptorium attached to it, which was frequently separately endowed to enable those employed to procure parchment, paints, and the necessary implements for binding. That at Bury St. Edmund's was endowed with two mills. The tithes of a rectory were appropriated to the Convent of St. Swithin, Winchester, in 1171. In 1160, the churches were given to the monks of Ely, *ad libros faciendos*. Croyland was a great place for copying. The Scriptorium of St. Alban's was founded in 1080. Charlemagne gave to the monks of Swithin an unlimited right of hunting, that they might be supplied from the skins of the deer they slew with gloves, girdles, and bindings for their books. And now, let us suppose a work put in hands to be copied. Say ten copies are to be made. The work was carefully unbound, and a sheet delivered to each of the scribes. They made the required number of copies of that sheet, and then received another, and so on, until the work was finished. As soon as the writer had copied a sheet, he handed it over to the illuminators, who put in the initial letters, or any other ornaments the book might seem to require. When finished, the binders began upon the sheets; and thus the work went merrily on, and new books were thus circulated all over Western Christendom in an incredibly short time, considering the means employed. Sometimes we meet with men who were regular book-lovers; who delighted in the work of copying and illuminating, as so many amongst us do now. Thus, Henry, a monk of the Benedictine Abbey of Hyde, in 1178, copied Terence, Boethius, Suetonius, and Claudian. He formed them into one volume, illuminating the initials, and making even the brass bosses of the binding with his own hands. Benedict, Abbot of Peterborough, about the same time transcribed Seneca's Tragedies and Epistles, Terence, Martial, Claudian, the "Gesta Alexandri," and many scholastic and theological treatises with his own hand, evidently from love of the work. But let us see if we cannot find traces of the results of the labour of the monks. A great fire occurred at Croyland in 1091, when 700 volumes were consumed; of these, 300 are called *volumina originalia*, the other 400, *minora volumina*—whether as to their size or contents does not appear. At Glastonbury, in 1248—and it was the richest monastery in England—there were only 400 volumes; at Peterborough, there were, as before said, 1,700 MSS. at the time of the Dissolution. The University Library of Oxford, prior to 1300, consisted of a few works chained in the choir of St. Mary's Church, and a few tracts kept in chests. The library, in fact, might be said to be non-existent until Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, in 1440, bestowed upon it 600 volumes. One of the greatest book-collectors of the middle-ages was Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham from 1333-45. His book, called "Philobiblon," is well-known. It is among the earliest of biblio-maniacal works, and shows how strongly he was bitten by that most reasonable of all hobbies. He had been tutor to Edward III. The king was greatly attached to him, and there is little doubt acquired from him much of the ability which distinguished him among contemporary monarchs.—*The Englishman's Magazine*.

## V. Papers on Sunday Schools.

### 1. SUNDAY-SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

A correspondent in the *S. S. World*, writes:—Having read with much interest several articles in the *World* upon Sunday-school Libraries, and having had much experience in the selection of books for Sabbath-schools, and noticed the effect of various kinds upon the children and adults, allow me to give your readers a little of my experience.

In the first place, I reject nearly all books that children and youth will not read. It is money thrown away to purchase such; for adults will seldom read those which the younger ones throw aside. Of this class, Memoirs, Biographies, Dissertations, &c., are almost wholly excluded. I find but an occasional good one. In the next place, I select all books of a religious character, which will interest, entertain, and instruct the reader. A book, which after perusal, has excited or appealed to the nobler nature of the soul, the deep, religious feeling and sentiment; which has the tendency to lead the reader to a purer thought, a more earnest purpose, a more decided resolve to do and live better, to work more earnestly in the good

cause, and which will lead the religious thought, feeling and action to a higher state of existence, is the book for a Sunday-school library.

I examine each book. Many I can tell by a hasty glance through them; others require a more extended examination, and if any are still in doubt they are laid aside for more leisure and thorough perusal. Sometimes, notwithstanding the care taken, a book will creep in which proves a mistake. At the first re-arranging of the library these are rejected and others selected to fill their places. Every good book should be retained. If worn out or lost it should be replaced for a period of years at least. Thus every addition increases the number of volumes, and, under the foregoing plan, in a few years a school will have a fine library of the most choice Sunday-school books. Those growing up in the school will find their interest in the books which are added, while those which they have perused will be just as good for and interesting to the younger and new scholars continually coming in. As far as possible I become acquainted with every book by reading them (teachers should not fail to do this), and thus am enabled to recommend them to others as those which will suit their age, taste, or feeling.

The work of the library we have thoroughly systematized. The teachers have nothing to do with it, excepting to receive the books to be returned from their scholars before the opening of the school, and place them at the head of the seat where they are easily accessible to the librarians, who immediately pass around and collect them, and by this time we are ready to commence the exercises without interruption. At the close of the lesson the librarians hand the books selected to the teachers, who deliver them. No teacher or scholar is allowed at the library, which is in a separate room. If any arrive late, they must wait until the librarian calls for their books. We must avoid confusion and interruption while the teachers are engaged with the lesson. I have not time or space to detail our system of giving out or *drawing* books, but we consider it one of the best.

## 2. SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTRUCTION IN UPPER CANADA.

From a recent editorial in the *Hamilton Spectator* on the recent Sunday School Convention held in that city, we select the following striking remarks:—

"Viewed in its fullest sense, the question with which this Convention has to deal, is how best the foundations, religious, moral, political and commercial, of the future character of the people of this country may be laid. That was a true and noble answer which our own good christian Queen gave to the Indian Prince who sought to know the secret of England's greatness. "You will find it there," said Victoria, pointing to one of the shilling Bibles of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and there it undoubtedly is to be found. Just in proportion as the laws and government of a country are based upon sacred christian principles, and its people influenced by sound religious impulses, will its institutions be admirable, and its condition happy and prosperous. And this statement, we deem it right, lest we may be misunderstood, in no way implies the necessity for a state church in a country like Canada. The Legislature, we think, has wisely placed upon the Statute Book the principle that in Canada there shall be no connection—that is no connection in the direction of state patronage—between the state and religion. But the very recognition of this principle only imposes upon the people, in their individual or denominational character, the greater responsibility in reference to religious training and instruction.

"The adage "as the twig is bent the tree's inclined" is universally illustrated by an everyday experience. If we would have in this country a people governed by religious principles, we must see to it that the youth from the very earliest dawns of intelligence is trained under sound religious institutions. A system of education which entirely ignores the moral and religious principle, is a vicious and unsound system. And that feature of our Common School system in Canada, which recognizes the higher aspirations and nobler destinies of mankind, by providing that, for at least a short period in each week, the pastor of each church may instruct, within the public school house, the children of his charge in religious knowledge, is creditable to the religious character of the people of Canada. But the very conditions of our religious society render it essential that the system itself should be non-sectarian in its main features. And this fact gives to the Sunday schools a powerful and appropriate connection with the general education of the people. Viewed in this light they possess an absorbing interest even for the politician and statesman, and their success is a matter of the very highest consequence."

## 3. RESOLUTIONS OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION, HELD IN HAMILTON, C. W., ON THE 5TH, 6TH, AND 7TH DAYS OF SEPTEMBER, 1865.

I. This convention, acknowledging with gratitude the goodness

of God in permitting so many of his people, who are engaged in the work of Sabbath school teaching, to meet at this time, and His gracious presence vouchsafed at these meetings, resolves to express, as by this resolution it does, its deep sense of the benefits resulting from such gatherings in the quickening of faith and hope, the stimulating of flagging zeal, the encouraging and direction of human effort, and the cultivating of christian liberality and love among the members of Christ's church of various denominations.

II. This convention, aware that there are, both in country districts and in cities and large towns, many children not enjoying the privileges of religious instruction, and who may be gathered within the Sabbath school fold, acknowledge the obligation lying upon christians to address themselves to this work, and the guilt of neglecting it, or showing indifference or slothfulness therein.

Believing, also, that much may be done by earnest, prayerful, united, and continued effort, the members of this convention agree to endeavour, according to their several ability, to give effect to the resolutions already adopted relative to the Sabbath school teachers' association.

III. As regards the means to be adopted for the two-fold object of ingathering neglected children, and improving schools now in operation, this convention recommends:

1. The regular and kindly visitation of children and parents by Sabbath school visitors.

2. The formation of union schools on a non-denominational basis, where these may be needed, on account of sectarian feeling or the weakness of churches.

3. The establishment of mission schools in localities where the children, from poverty or any other such cause, are unable to attend schools now in operation.

4. The careful training of teachers for their work by stated teachers' meetings, and, if possible, occasional practical illustrations.

5. The earnest oversight of Sabbath schools by pastors, with sermons addressed to children occasionally.

## VI. Papers on School Books.

### 1. ANTI-BRITISH INFLUENCE OF AMERICAN SCHOOL READERS, HISTORIES AND GEOGRAPHIES.

From an elaborate article in a recent number of the *British Quarterly Review*, from the pen of the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, who recently paid a visit to the United States and Canada, we select the following truly philosophical remarks on the pernicious influence of American School readers, histories and geographies:

"One fact bearing on this point has especially arrested my attention. It is admitted that the artisan class in this country have been found, in the main, steady in their adherence to the cause of the North, and little disposed to bear with any clap-trap in favour of the South. But in the United States, it seems, it is the artisan and labouring classes especially that are found to shout forth approval in public meetings when popular orators are pleased to fling their invectives against England. How is this? It is alleged, and I believe with truth, that the mass of the people are more generally and better educated in the States, than the same class in this country. The American School system secures this almost of necessity. These facts, however, seem to warrant the suspicion, that, if the humbler classes in the United States are in advance of the same class among ourselves in certain elements of school routine, it has somehow come to pass that the balance of clear and moral intelligence on political questions lie with England, and not with America. You may dot a land with school-houses to any extent you please, but Society is the great free school after all. The plant lives from the atmosphere.

One cause of this difference I think I see. The primary schools in the United States have their lesson books, from which the elder scholars are exercised in reading, and these lesson books have a great deal of the Fourth of July tone in them, and impassioned speeches against England are thus made to be familiar to American youth from their childhood. General Howard and Colonel Eaton took me, as a visitor, to a school of freed negro children in Washington, and in the course of the examination, the mistress was requested to call upon some of the elder scholars to read. The lesson chosen was selected, I presume, as being that which had become most familiar to the school. It consisted of specimens of oratory concerning the war of Independence, and was singularly well adapted to associate the name of England in the young mind with everything odious in insolence and oppression. My friends smiled as they found me called to listen to this sort of rhetoric, and very good-naturedly requested that some other lesson should be chosen. Train children to the love of liberty, say I, by all means. I wish we had more of it in England than is now known among us; but



take care that you do not demoralise them in the process. Primary schools on a broad social basis, may be efficient in their literary department, and may be miserably wanting, not only in respect to religion, but in respect to sound moral training."

On this subject we also insert the following correspondence:—

REV. E. RYERSON.—Sir, I was greatly surprised to see, in the *Journal of Education* for August, a notice to the effect that the use of any American geographies will subject the school to the loss of its share of the school fund. I was surprised because I was utterly at a loss to know the reasons for such prohibition. Most certainly every country has the right to prohibit the use of any book in its schools, and no citizen of any other country has the right to call the action in question, still, it may not be wholly improper for a private citizen to ask for the reasons for such action. Will you therefore, if not inconsistent with your duty and the best interests of the cause of popular education in your province, please to inform me why the geographies called American geographies are thus excluded from your schools.

If it is because your own publications are actually better than ours, we will, in Pennsylvania at least, most cheerfully use yours until ours can be so much improved that they will compare favourably with any works of the kind published on this continent.

If ours are immoral in their tendencies, or unsound in their teachings, or false in their statements, we shall be most happy to have the immorality or unsoundness or false statements pointed out, in order that they may be corrected.

Yours truly, CHAS. P. COBURN,  
Harrisburgh, Pa., 5th Oct., 1865. State Superintendent

(COPY OF REPLY.)

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., and have much pleasure in complying with your request, stating the reasons, by a section of our school law passed in 1846, why foreign school books, in our English language, are not allowed to be used in our public schools, without the express sanction of the Council of Public Instruction.

The provision of the law in question, though expressed in general terms, applies of course chiefly to school books published in the United States. I cannot better explain to you the reasons for this provision of the law, than by quoting a few sentences from a Special Report which I presented to our Legislature, June, 1847:

"In regard to the exclusion of American books from our schools, I have explained, as I have had opportunity, that it is not because they are foreign books simply that they are excluded, although it is patriotic to use our own in preference to foreign publications; but because they are, with very few exceptions, anti-British, in every sense of the word.

They are unlike the school books of any other enlightened people, so far as I have the means of knowing. The school books of Germany, France, and Great Britain, contain nothing hostile to the institutions or derogatory to the character of any other nation. I know not a single English school book in which there is an allusion to the United States not calculated to excite a feeling of respect for their inhabitants and government. It is not so with American school books. With very few exceptions, they abound in statements and allusions prejudicial to the institutions and character of the British nation. It may be said that such statements and allusions are "few and far between," and exert no injurious influence upon the minds of children and their parents. But surely no school book would be tolerated which should contain statements and allusions, "few and far between," against the character and institutions of our common christianity. And why should books be authorized or used in our schools inveighing against the character and institutions of our common country? And as to the influence of such publications, I believe, though silent and imperceptible in its operations, it is more extensive and powerful than is generally supposed. I believe such books are one element of powerful influence against the established government of the country. From facts which have come to my knowledge, I believe it will be found, on inquiring, that in precisely these parts of Upper Canada where United States school books had been used most extensively, there the spirit of the insurrection, in 1837 and 1838, was most prevalent.

Though impressed with the magnitude of the evil arising from the indiscriminate use of United States books in our schools, I have thought it premature to recommend the enforcement of the law excluding them, until a proper supply of equally cheap, if not cheaper books, recommended by the Board of Education, should be provided. This, I believe, will be done in the course of the current year; and I doubt not but all parties in the Legislature will

agree in the propriety and expediency of using our own books in our own schools."

I may remark that at a National School Convention, held at Philadelphia some ten or twelve years ago, and over the proceedings of which the late venerable Bishop Potter presided, I drew attention to the anti-British peculiarity of your school books, and the unreasonableness of it, and the provisions of our law in consequence of it. The unadvisableness of continuing such a peculiarity in your text-books was admitted by the best educationists in the Convention, and the propriety of correcting it, which, however, has not been done.

I am sure you would not sanction the use of text books in your schools which contained attacks upon and statements and allusions derogatory to your institutions and government.

I have done all in my power to cultivate and inculcate the most liberal and friendly feelings between this country and the United States, and have often been assailed in the public press for my alleged American partialities; but I should be wanting in duty to my own country to encourage, in the education of its youth, the use of books which desparage the government and institutions which it is their duty to respect and support.

I have, &c.,

(Signed),

E. RYERSON.

Education Office, Toronto, 11th Oct., 1865.

## 2. LOVELL'S SERIES OF SCHOOL BOOKS.

Amongst the successful competitors at the Dublin Exhibition, we are glad to notice the name of Mr. Lovell, to whom has been awarded a silver medal. The award is "for CHEAP and GOOD Educational Works published by him." There is a significance in the terms of the award—good and cheap. They are exactly the requisites of a young country like our own, and the absence of either quality would be fatal. This is not the first occasion on which Mr. Lovell's books have been noticed in Britain. The Jury of the International Exhibition held in London, in 1862, made the following report: "The Colony (Canada) produces many of its own school books, among which may be mentioned 'Lovell's General Geography,' a trustworthy and attractive manual, remarkable for its clear arrangement, and for the fulness of its illustrative and statistical contents." Such verdicts must be highly gratifying to Mr. Lovell; but a more gratifying fact is, that his books are now in general use throughout the Provinces, for which they have been expressly prepared, and are, most of them, sanctioned by the various Councils of Education for use in the schools of the Provinces.—*Montreal Transcript*.

## 3. UNIFORMITY IN SCHOOL BOOKS IN LOWER CANADA.

According to a late decision of the Council of Public Instruction, none but the books which they have approved are to be used in the academies, model schools, and elementary schools of Lower Canada. After the first July, 1866, the Superintendent will refuse to pay their share of the Government grant to those who have not complied with the order. This decision aims at a most worthy object—that of obtaining both excellency and uniformity in the books for education. Amongst the advantages which the uniformity of school-books will offer is that of economy. Larger editions can be made of the same work, with the certainty of a prompt sale, which enables the publisher to lower the price; and, the extra expense, so unwelcome to parents, frequently incurred by an arbitrary change of books in a school, will no longer be possible. Of course the Council and the Superintendent have no power to enforce this desirable uniformity of books upon the very numerous private schools of our cities. And yet the different set of books adopted in each individual school, to say nothing of the frequent changes ordered by whimsical teachers, constitutes a great nuisance.

The evil might be obviated by a mutual agreement, in a conference of leading city teachers, otherwise they had better allow their choice to be guided by the authoritative decisions of the Council.—*Montreal Witness*.

## 4. AN UNIQUE FRENCH SCHOOL BOOK.

Among the school books used in France, is one entirely unknown in this country, consisting of fac similes of letters written by business men, eminent people, etc., intended to teach children the art of reading writing, of which there is almost universal ignorance in America. Every variety of hand is selected, beginning with the best, and gradually proceeding to scrawls which puzzle printers and "blind letters" men in post offices.

## VII. Papers on Prizes in Schools.

### 1. MERIT CARDS IN OUR SCHOOLS.

In regard to the system of merit cards which have recently been

\* The reason for the exclusion of American Text-books is also given in note † on page 393 of "Eighty Years Progress of British North America."

introduced into our Schools, and to which we referred in the *Journal* for May, we have received the following note.

"Your merit ticket system works admirably. The daily prospect of a prize at the quarterly examination keeps the whole school alive."

## 2. SCHOOL PRIZES IN NORTH HASTINGS.

REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP EXAMINATIONS OF THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF NORTH HASTINGS, DURING SUMMER OF 1865.

The Honourable Mr. Flint, M.L.C. for the Trenton Division, having informed me that he would give \$10 to the Common schools of each municipality in North Hastings, for the purpose of Prize Books, to be competed for at public township examinations, provided the several townships contributed a like sum for the same purpose. I put myself in communication with the Reeves of the several townships of this riding, informing them of Mr. Flint's offer, and am pleased to state that it was promptly accepted.

I then issued a Circular to the teachers, stating that township examinations would be held in July, and that I purposed examining the pupils in the following branches:

*Senior Division.*—Pupils of the age of 12 years and upwards.

Sacred History,—5th book, to the Birth of Christ.

History of Greece, " "

History of Rome, " "

Grammar,—Parsing exercises.

Geography,—Rudiments and questions on the maps.

Arithmetic—Sangster's first book.

*Junior Division.*—Pupils under 12 years of age.

Reading,—3rd book.

Spelling,— " "

Mental Arithmetic.

Writing.

I subsequently held public examinations in the villages of Sterling and Madoc, and in the townships of Madoc, Elzevir, Hungerford, Huntingdon, Tudor, Marmora and Rawdon.

On assembling at each township, the teachers selected Judges to award the prizes; members of the board of public instruction, clergymen, and teachers, from other townships, were generally selected for this purpose.

Before proceeding with the examination, the parcel containing the prizes was opened, and the number of prizes that could be given to each class ascertained, and announced, for the information of the judges and the pupils. It affords me much pleasure to state that the excellent selection made by the Educational Department, enabled me, in all cases, to give from five to seven prizes to each class.

**IN THE FIRST DIVISION**—The questions on History were close and searching, so much so, as to render a thorough knowledge of the portions selected for examination, indispensable to obtaining a prize.

*Grammar.*—Sentences were given by the judges, which were copied by the pupils on their slates, who, on parsing the exercise, handed them in for examination.

*Geography.*—After thorough examination upon the definitions, questions were put to the pupils as to the boundaries of countries, their capitals, the course of rivers, &c. A correct account was kept of all errors made in replying to the questions; and, at the close of the examination, prizes were awarded to those who had succeeded in answering the greater number correctly.

*Arithmetic.*—Questions were selected by the judges from the first book of Sangster, and prizes awarded upon the same principle as in the last branch.

**JUNIOR DIVISION.**—*Reading, 3rd Book.*—The judges selected such lessons as they deemed best calculated to test the reading in this book.

*Spelling, 3rd Book.*—The lessons at the head of each chapter were taken for this exercise, any pupils making a mistake retired from the class. In most of the Townships the contest for the prizes was well maintained. In Rawdon all the spelling lessons in this book were gone through before a decision could be made.

*Mental Arithmetic.*—Questions in the simple and compound rules were put to the pupils, an account kept of errors, and the award made at the close of the exercise.

*Writing.*—The copy books were exhibited, containing at least six pages of specimens.

The following statement relative to these examinations will be gratifying.

1st. The attendance of the parents and friends of the pupils was very numerous, indeed so much so, that though the examinations were held at the Town Hall of the townships, or an adjoining church, were crowded to excess; their conduct, notwithstanding the extreme heat and pressure, was orderly and attentive. In every township the deepest interest was manifested in the proceedings, by

the parents of the pupils; they provided refreshments for all who attended, endeavouring to make the day assume the happy appearance of a family gathering.

2nd. The conduct of the pupils in every township was exemplary, their appearance creditable to their parents, their proficiency, in the branches in which they were examined, such as to elicit from the judges warm expressions of commendation.

3rd. In each township I found members of the Board of Education, clergymen, and the friends of education, availing themselves of the occasion to address the audience on the exercises of the day, and to state home truths upon the duties and responsibilities of parents; and it is equally pleasing to state that these truths were listened to and received in a kindly spirit.

4th. The Hon. Mr. Flint accompanied me to the examinations, addressed the people in each township in feeling and appropriate terms upon the subject of education, giving an outline of the progress made in Canada, and comparing the state of Education in his boyhood with the gratifying exhibition which every township can make in the present day. His remarks to the pupils upon their duties to their parents and teachers were listened to with the deep attention and respect they merited.

I have the pleasure to inform you that Mr. Flint announced his intention (so long as he continued member for the Trent Division) to appropriate annually ten dollars to each village, town and township municipality in the division, for the purchase of prizes, upon condition that they gave the same amount for that purpose. I may mention for your information that this will cost him about \$300 annually.

I would further remark that the only draw-back I experienced at these examinations, was the want of buildings large enough to hold the people assembled. So crowded were we in most townships that I was fearful we should have to give them up for want of room. I look forward with the hope that the most active and energetic in each township will, during the ensuing year, make arrangements fitted for a township examination in North Hastings.

T. S. AGAR.

Local Supt., North Hastings.

## VIII. Biographical Sketches.

### No. 58.—JUDGE HALIBURTON.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas Chandler Haliburton, long a judge in Nova Scotia, on Sunday, at his residence, Gordon House, Isleworth. This well-known author was born in British North America, and at the time of his decease was sixty-eight years of age. He was best known by his literary name of "Sam Slick," by which he achieved great reputation. In 1835 he furnished to a weekly paper at Halifax a series of clever humorous letters, in which the portraiture of American manners formed an inexhaustible subject. In 1837 these were republished at New York, under the title of "The Clockmaker." The book is a satirical history, full of broad humour, lively sallies, and laughable sketches. The hero, Sam Slick, is a thoroughbred Yankee, bold, cunning, and, above all, a merchant—in short, a sort of Republican Panurge. A Second Series of "The Clockmaker" appeared in 1838, and the Third Series in 1840. In 1842, Mr. Haliburton visited England as an *attaché* of the American Legation, and on his return to America in the following year, he published his amusing observations on English society under the title of "The Attaché, or Sam Slick in England," in two volumes, to which he added a second series, also in two volumes, in 1844. Mr. Haliburton commenced author as early as 1828, when his "Historical and Statistical Account of Nova Scotia" appeared in two volumes, octavo. This was republished in 1839, after "The Clockmaker" had established his fame, in which year he also threw off "Bubbles of Canada," "The Old Judge, or Life in a Colony," and "The Letter Bag of the Great Western;" but it is to "The Clockmaker" and "The Attaché" that he will owe his future position in the ranks of English literature. Of his more recent works, "Nature and Human Nature," published in 1855, has passed through several editions, "Rule and Misrule of the English in America," in two volumes, appeared in 1851; and "Yankee Stories," and "Traits of American Humour," the latter in three volumes, in 1852. The Attaché, unlike Nathaniel Hawthorne, during his stay amongst us had learnt to love the "Old Country." When he gave up his judgeship in Nova Scotia, he crossed the Atlantic, permanently settled in England, and was elected member for Launceston in the Conservative interest. Though a constant attendant in the House, his voice, naturally weak and feeble, prevented him from taking any prominent part in the debates. His declining health led to his retirement into private life at the close of the last Parliament. Sterne, Wilson, Dickens, "George Eliot," and Haliburton, are our chief writers of rhap-

sodical discourses, and each has had the singular facility of preserving a marked individuality. As a member of the Imperial Legislature, Mr. Haliburton's voice was always ready in the defence of the colonies of British North America, and he rarely spoke except upon colonial questions. His pen, too, was not idle in the same direction. Last year he paid his last visit to Nova Scotia, and was among those who were assembled at the village of Windsor in August to welcome the Canadian delegates to that Province, as they stepped off the little steamer which bore them from St. John. He died universally esteemed.—*The Reader.*

No. 59.—SIR WILLIAM R. HAMILTON.

By the steamer *City of Boston* we receive the news of the death of Sir William Rowan Hamilton, a celebrated British natural philosopher and astronomer. He was born in Dublin, August 4, 1805, and was at his death in his 61st year. At an early age he gave evidence of the highest intellectual power. At three years of age he was consigned to the care of his uncle, Rev. James Hamilton, and when thirteen years old, he was, in different degrees, acquainted with thirteen different languages. At the age of 14 he addressed a letter of greeting in the Persian language to the Persian ambassador in England. At the age of 18 he entered the Dublin University, where he at once gained the first place, and in 1828, while still an under-graduate, was appointed Professor of Astronomy in the University Royal of Ireland. In 1837, he was elected President of the Royal Irish Academy. In 1835 he was knighted by Lord Normandy, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, for his advancement in science. Sir W. Hamilton has been engaged in numerous investigations on scientific subjects, and has published a number of works containing his results. One of the most celebrated of these is an "Essay on the Theory of Rays," which was read to the Royal Academy, December, 1864, and his last and most elaborate work is his "Method of Calculus of Quaternions," which was accomplished in 1854, a mathematical work of great distinction.

No. 60.—SIR WILLIAM JACKSON HOOKER.

England mourns the loss of one of her greatest botanists, a man who by the labours of his life has made Kew one of the centres of the scientific study he loved so well, and the envy of all the capitals of Europe. It happens but rarely to one man to play such an important part in the encouragement of a branch of research as that undertaken by Sir William Hooker, and whether we look upon those eleven acres of garden, now expanded into 270, with museums, conservatories, libraries, herbaria, hothouses, fern-houses, and ten thousand of the most precious trees, we must acknowledge that it is rarer still that a man is found who does his work so well. But even this is not all. Kew under his care has become a central influence which has gradually shown itself in the formation of similar establishments in our colonies, a breathing of new life into others, and the dissemination and intercommunication of things botanical over the civilized world. William Jackson Hooker was born at Norwich on the 6th of July, 1785, and was educated at the High School in that town. A keen sportsman, he soon formed a fine collection of the birds of Norfolk, which was rendered more valuable by many close observations on their habits; and the friendship of Messrs. Kirby and Spence and Alexander Macleay, the then Secretary of the Linnean Society, induced him to devote much time to entomology. The discovery of the *Buxbaumia aphylla*, one of the most curious and rare of British mosses, which he took to Sir James Smith, the most eminent botanist of the day, encouraged him to commence the study of that science, which afterwards became the main pursuit of his life. He early made extensive botanical tours in the wildest parts of Scotland (including the Orkneys, Hebrides, &c.) In 1809, encouraged by Sir Joseph Banks, he visited Iceland, which he extensively explored, making large collections in all branches of natural history. In 1810-11 he made extensive preparations for accompanying Sir Robert Brownrigg, the Governor of Ceylon. The zeal with which he carried on his preparations may be exemplified by the fact that he made pen and ink copies of the plates and descriptions of the entire MS. series of Roxburgh's Indian plants. In 1814 he explored parts of France, Switzerland, and the north of Italy. In 1820 he accepted the Regius Professorship of Botany in Glasgow, at which place the next twenty years of his life were passed. During his residence at Glasgow he published various botanical works. In 1826 he commenced the authorship of *The Botanical Magazine*, which he carried on for nearly forty years. In 1836 he was knighted by William the Fourth, in acknowledgement of his distinguished services to science; and in 1841 he received his appointment at Kew, where he died on the 12th August, having just completed his eightieth year.—*The Reader.*

## IX. Miscellaneous.

### 1. INDIAN SUMMER.

Clothed in royal robes the woodland,  
Scarlet-hued, and gold and green;  
Green and golden carpets cover  
All the brown earth thickly over—  
Fairest that were ever seen.

And the Autumn's mystic seeming,  
As a sweet prophetic dreaming,  
With fond fancies overteeming,  
Weaves around its magic spell  
As its lullings, low and lazy,  
And its gentle, soothing murmurs  
Many a tale of wonder tell.

For a witchery is ringing  
Over forest, field and hill,  
And a music burden chorus  
Softly, softly swelling o'er us,  
Breaking in a thousand echoes,  
Bears its music-burden still.

Dallying with dishevelled tresses,  
Now the west wind gently presses  
On a fever-heated brow,  
And with soothing, sweet caresses,  
Whispers lovingly and low.

O! the world is full of beauty,  
In those dreamy days I sing;  
All envailed in tender sadness  
Sweeter than the summer's gladness,  
Sweeter than the bud and blooming  
Of the beautiful bright spring.

### 2. QUEEN VICTORIA IN COBURG.

On Saturday, the 26th August, Queen Victoria presided at the uncovering of the Albert statue in Coburg. It is understood that more than one royal personage who had desired to be present was informed, by Her Majesty's wish, that the occasion was one of a strictly domestic interest. The statue is erected in the town of Coburg, but the actual birth-place of Prince Albert was the Chateau of Rosenau, about three miles distant. The weather was favorable for the inauguration, and the town was crowded with visitors. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge wore uniforms as generals in the British army. The Crown Prince of Prussia, Prince Louis of Hesse, and the Duke of Wurtemberg, were attired in the military dress of their respective countries. Prince Alfred wore a Coburg uniform, and the princesses wore light summer costumes. The Duke and Duchess of Saxe Coburg arrived shortly before four o'clock, and were greeted cordially by their subjects. On the arrival of the Queen, the band played the English national anthem, and immediately afterwards the choir, accompanied by the band, sang a hymn, "Heil dir in Siegerkranz." After the hymn, the white cloth surrounding the statue was lot fall, and the figure of the Prince Consort stood revealed. The statue is of colossal size, and, in the left hand is a baton, whilst the right rests on a plan of the Great Exhibition, which rests on a stone at the side of the figure. It is gilt, and stands on a pedestal of black polished granite. Luther's hymn, "Ein feste Burg," was then sung, accompanied by the band, and the Queen was conducted by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg towards the statue. Her Majesty was followed by all the members of the Royal Family, and, on arriving at the foot of the colossal figure, the Queen first gazed for a second at the features of the Prince, and then handed to one of the young ladies of the city who had been admitted within the railings, the bouquet which had been lying in front of Her Majesty. The Queen's example was followed by all the princesses, and numerous bouquets were laid at the foot of the statue. The ceremony then closed, and the Queen left for Rosenau.

### 3. LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF COBURG.

Previous to leaving Rosenau, Queen Victoria desired the following letter of thanks to be addressed to the municipality of Coburg:—"The Queen has been both touched and rejoiced to see how the inhabitants of the town of Coburg have associated themselves with her endeavor to honor the memory of her never-to-be-forgotten consort. The recent proof of the affection borne towards the Prince, by his native town, has deeply moved the Queen. Coburg, the birthplace of her consort and her mother, will always

be held dear to the Queen. She cannot now leave Coburg without expressing her warmest thanks both to the burgomaster of the town, and, through him, to all the inhabitants, for the marks of attachment she has experienced upon this last visit as upon every previous occasion. Coburg, September, 1865. (Signed) GRANVILLE."

#### 4. SWEARING IN OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT.

As the account of this ceremony might be interesting to some of our young readers, we insert the following from the *Gazette*:—

At noon, on the 30th ultimo, the ceremony of swearing in Lieutenant-General Sir John Michel, K. C. B., &c., as Administrator of the Government during the absence of His Excellency Lord Monck, took place in the Council Rooms of the Advocates' Chambers. A large number of spectators were present. In the room were also the following members of the Executive Council: Hon. Attorney-General Macdonald, Minister of Militia; Attorney-General Cartier; Hon. Mr. McDougall, Provincial Secretary; Hon. Mr. McGee, Minister of Agriculture; and Hon. Mr. Galt, Finance Minister. Hon. Judge Aylwin (who adjourned the Court of Queen's Bench for an hour to perform the ceremony); Hon. Judges Badgley, Mondelet, Berthelot, and Drummond, were present in their official robes. The Council was attended by W. A. Himsforth, Esq., Assistant Clerk of the Council. Among those present were, Sheriff Bouthillier, His Worship the Mayor (who wore his gold collar of office, and the Norwegian order of St. Olaf), etc. A number of ladies, and a good representation of the Montreal Bar were also in attendance. Precisely at noon Lieutenant-General Michel entered the room, attended by the following staff: Colonel Lysons, C. B., Assistant Quartermaster-General; Colonel Thackwell, Deputy Adjutant-General; Colonel Earle, Military Secretary; Captain De Montmorency, Aide-de-Camp; and Colonel Irvine, Provincial Aide-de-Camp. The General and staff wore full uniform, the former being distinguished by a large number of decorations, including the Cross of the Bath, three foreign crosses, and three medals for service in the East and elsewhere. The General having advanced to the table, the Clerk of the Council read the despatch from the Colonial Office, granting leave of absence to His Excellency Lord Monck, and directing that, during his absence, the senior military officer, in command of the forces, hold the office of Administrator of the Government. His Honor Justice Aylwin, in the absence of the Chief Justice Duval, now administered to Lieutenant-General Michel the following oaths, which he subscribed:—"I, Sir John Michel, K. C. B., do sincerely promise and swear, That I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, as lawful Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of this Province of Canada, dependent on and belonging to the said United Kingdom; and that I will defend Her to the utmost of my power against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts whatever which shall be made against Her Person, Crown, and Dignity; and that I will do my utmost endeavour to disclose and make known to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies and attempts which I shall know to be against Her or any of them; and all this I do swear without any equivocation, mental evasion, or secret reservation, and renouncing all pardons and dispensations from any person or persons whatever to the contrary. So help me God." The other oaths administered were, that His Excellency should do justly, with due regard to the interests of our Queen and country, to all of which he kissed the Bible, and audibly responded, "So help me God." The Judges then also appended their signatures, thus concluding the ceremony. These oaths having been administered, the Great Seal of the Province was placed in the hands of His Excellency, who delivered it to the Hon. Mr. McDougall, the Provincial Secretary, in the usual formal words, announcing to him that he had perfect confidence in the use he would make of the same. His Honor Judge Aylwin having congratulated His Excellency the Administrator of the Government on his assumption of office, the proceedings came to an end. The Executive Council afterwards held a meeting in the same room.

#### X. Educational Intelligence.

— GRAMMAR SCHOOL, FERGUS.—We are requested to state that in the September number of this *Journal* the number of pupils attending the Fergus Grammar School was understated. The daily average number should have been nearly fourteen, for the three months ending the 30th of June, during which the school was open, or nearly seven for the full half yearly school period of six months—during three of which the school was not in operation.

— EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL CANADA.—We are requested to state that "The second annual meeting of the Educational Institute for Central Canada, will be held in the Lecture Room of the Mechanics'

Institute, Ottawa, on the last Friday of December, at 10 o'clock A.M. John McMillan, Secretary.

— BISHOP'S COLLEGE.—The Hon. Mr. Justice Meredith, of Quebec has been elected Chancellor of Bishop's College, Lennoxville.

#### XI. Departmental Notices.

##### REPORTS FOR LOCAL SUPERINTENDENT'S.

Those local superintendents who do not receive the blank form for Trustees, yearly and half yearly reports direct from the Department, through the post office, will find them at the office of the County Clerk—to whom they have been enclosed with the School Registers, &c.

##### METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS IN UPPER CANADA.

His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government in Council, has been pleased, on the recommendation of the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada, to approve of the following meteorological stations in Upper Canada, in terms of the eleventh Section of the Grammar School Improvement Act of last session, viz.: Windsor, Goderich, Stratford, Simcoe, Hamilton, Barrie, Peterborough, Belleville, Cornwall and Pembroke. The eleventh section of the Act is as follows:—

"Each of the Grammar School Meteorological stations, at which the daily observations are made, as required by law, shall be entitled to an additional apportionment out of the Grammar School fund, at a rate not exceeding fifteen dollars per month for each consecutive month during which such duty is performed and satisfactory monthly abstracts thereof are furnished to the Chief Superintendent, according to the forms and regulations provided by the Department of Public Instruction; but the number and locality of such meteorological stations shall be designated by the Council of Public Instruction with the approval of the Governor in Council."

The Departmental regulations on the subject will be published in the next number of the *Journal of Education*.

##### USE OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHIES ILLEGAL.

According to previous notice, the Council of Public Instruction has withdrawn its sanction to the use of Morse's Geography in any of the public schools of Upper Canada. Hereafter it will not be lawful (after the copies now in actual use in any school are worn out) to use either Morse's or any other American geography in either the Grammar or Common Schools of Upper Canada. A violation of this order in any case will render liable the school concerned to the loss of its share in the Grammar School Fund or Legislative School grant, as the case may be.

##### BOOKS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR USE IN THE SCHOOLS OF UPPER CANADA.

The following books, published in Canada, have been approved and recommended by the Council of Public Instruction for use in the Grammar and Common Schools of Upper Canada:—

Sangster's National Arithmetic, in Theory and Practice, adapted to the Decimal Currency.

Sangster's Elementary Arithmetic, in Decimal Currency.

Sangster's Elementary Treatise on Algebra.

Lovell's General Geography; by J. George Hodgins, LL.B.

Easy Lessons in General Geography; by ditto.

School History of Canada and the other British North American Provinces; by ditto.

##### ADAM MILLER'S CHEAP SCHOOL BOOKS.

BULLION'S Analytical and Practical English Grammar, 50 cents. Introduction to ditto, 25 cents. Stoddard's Juvenile Mental Arithmetic, 13 cents. Stoddard's American Intellectual Arithmetic, 20 cents. Lovell's Series of School Books. The National Series. Stationery of every description. A liberal discount allowed to teachers.

ADAM MILLER,

Oct. 2, 1865.

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All communications to be addressed to J. GEORGE HODGINS, LL.B. Education Office, Toronto.