

THE DAILY EXAMINER. OCTOBER 6, 1888.

The Teachers' Convention.

A LARGE number of our teachers have met, and fraternized, and parted. If they had done nothing more, the meeting would have been worth while; for the mutual sympathy and encouragement which will result must have a marked influence—and that in the right direction—on the work done in our schools.

But there was in the meeting much more than mere fraternization. There was a good, solid, enlivening discussion. Much was said which was calculated to enlighten the teachers and the public at large concerning the practical uses of education and the object to be arrived at by the true teacher. Mr. Stewart, of Stanley, laid down the proposition that the true ideal of the teacher was the same as that of the politician: "the greatest good to the greatest number;" and Mr. Kiely, of York, said that "it should be the aim of every true teacher to impart to the pupils under his charge a broad, liberal, common school education which would best fit them for the ordinary pursuits of life." It seems to us that these propositions describe, as accurately as possible, the scope of the learning which ought to be imparted, free of charge, in the public schools. From a common purse money is taken to support common schools, and these schools ought not, in justice to the common people who supply the common purse, to be employed in imparting education of a special character to fit young men and women for the learned professions—except on payment of special fees by those who obtain such special teaching. Exception to this rule might, we think, be made for the benefit of the rising farmers; for the prosperity of the Province depends upon the prosperity of its farmers, and the more we have of them, and they know about the science of agriculture, the more prosperous the people of the Province, as a whole, will be.

We cannot help thinking that too many teachers have aimed rather to make their best pupils pass brilliant examinations in Latin and French and Geometry than to fit all for the performance aright of the duties which all owe to God and man. If the discussion leads to a higher conception of the teacher's work, and a course of studies calculated to promote "the greatest good to the greatest number," our teachers, in convention, will have rendered the Province a real and very important service.

Our Ferns.

THE haste which a reporter must exercise to give even the slightest notice of the many articles shown at our annual exhibitions, will account for our failure to make mention of a mounted collection of ferns, collected and identified by Mr. John McSwain, Head Master of the Model School. The omission has, however, given time and opportunity to make a more extended notice, and to add to our knowledge of our ferns. The collection was not intended to be considered complete as regards the Island, but to give specimens of those which may be collected in the vicinity of our city; for all excepting one, the sensitive fern, were collected within the limits of the city, along Spring Park brook.

It has, however, shown that there are many more ferns growing in our Island than is popularly believed. The assertion is often made that only three kinds of ferns grow here. The collection referred to exhibited specimens of ten species. Besides these, the bouquet of wild ferns collected at some distance from the town contained two or three additional varieties. A good opportunity for their identification was not afforded, but one contained a shield fern, probably *Aspidium acrostichoides*; the other, a cliff-brake, perhaps *Pellaea atropurpurea*, and a few miles from the city clusters of *Osmunda Claytoniana* may be seen. The species known to us number thirteen and represent eight genera. Below is a list of them as named in Gray's Manual: *Pteris aquilina*, Common brake; *Pellaea atropurpurea*, Cliff brake; *Asplenium thelypteris*, Spleenwort; *A. filix-foemina*, Beech fern; *Phlegopteris polypodioides*, Oak fern; *P. dryopteris*, Shield fern; *Aspidium thelypteris*, Shield fern; *A. Spiculatum* var. *Bootei*, " " *A. acrostichoides*, " " *Osmunda sensibilis*, Sensitive fern; *Dicranella punctilobula*, Dickson's fern; *Osmunda Claytoniana*, Clayton's fern; *O. cinnamomea*, Cinnamon fern.

The Portland Transcript reports that the early frosts cost the farmers of Maine over a million of dollars. Yet on the whole the year has not been a bad one for the crops, and would have been a very prosperous one but for that drawback. The hay crop is one of the best for years, and the fall pasturage has been excellent. The potato crop is fair, and a large grain crop is secured. The great loss is in sweet and Indian corn and the bean crop. Apples promised a two-thirds crop, but the equinoctial storm of last week did great damage, blowing to the ground thousands of barrels, and so damaging them that they will be unfit for winter keeping.

Mr. C. Smyth, late Astronomer-Royal for Scotland informs the London Times that a respite from the prevalent wet weather in Britain may be expected inasmuch as a total change recently took place in the physical constitution of the upper regions of the atmosphere, presaging a period of comparative dryness. This will be good news to more than the English people who have been holding up umbrellas for months, and, as the Empire remarks, it suggests an enquiry whether men on this side the Atlantic have the same intimate knowledge of the "upper regions."

Varia.

THE anxiety which is everywhere felt as to the safety of Mr. Stanley has been intensified by the news that Major Barttelot, who had gone to his rescue, as Stanley had to that of Emin Pasha, was murdered by his carriers on July 19. The London daily papers a few days ago printed the last letter which he wrote to the Ennui Relief Committee. It is a complete answer by anticipation to the suggestion which was made in a letter which appeared in the London Standard, that Major Barttelot was killed by his men because he was unduly severe towards them. In the course of Major Barttelot's despatch we find that his care for them was an ever-present concern to him. We learn, however, a clue which leaves little doubt that he was murdered at the instigation of Tipoo Tib. Major Barttelot speaks of this man, an old slave trader, with much distrust. He had failed to supply the number of carriers he had promised; and when we know that the party of men was under the command of one who was a creature of Tipoo, there is too much reason to fear that his was the hand that dealt the fatal blow. The one bright spot in the letter is that in which Major Barttelot expresses his conviction that Stanley is still alive.

Mr. Chamberlain lately addressed an important gathering of Liberal Unionists at Bradford. He was frequently challenged by Gladstonians present, but on the whole obtained a fair hearing. His speech was recapitulation of the principles which underlie the Unionists' opposition to Mr. Gladstone's union with the Parnellites. The part of the speech most effective is that in which he argues that Mr. Dillon has not a leg to stand upon. This M. P. was imprisoned for inciting tenants not to pay rent, and for urging them to join the Plan of Campaign. The Plan has been declared illegal by the highest court of Ireland; it has been disapproved by Mr. Parnell, and condemned by the Church of Rome. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre also comes under Mr. Chamberlain's lash. He seems to have been blissfully ignorant of the fact that by recent legislation the tenant's right is secured. It is he and not the landlord who reaps the advantage of improvements effected by him. If his rent be unfair, he can go to the Land Court, before Commissioner's appointed for the most part by Mr. Gladstone's Administration, and have a fair rent fixed. There is no other country in the world where, after obtaining these advantages, the tenant who refuses to pay his rent does not submit to eviction without being regarded as a martyr. Mr. Chamberlain expressed his belief that were it not for the National League there would not be any evictions in Ireland to-day. The tenants would readily pay their reduced rents; but in almost every case at present he alleged they dare not do so.

The Commission appointed by Parliament to enquire into the charges brought against the Irish Home Rulers by the Times met on the 17th September. Mr. Justice Hannen presided, and Mr. Justice Day and Mr. Justice A. L. Smith were on either side of him. The Solicitor General in Mr. Gladstone's last Administration, Sir Charles Russell, was the principal counsel for the Parnellites, and the present attorney General, who, however, was absent, is the chief counsel for the Times. The leading journal was represented by Mr. Graham. The business of the day was purely formal. The order of procedure was settled. Everyone appears to be delighted with the impartiality displayed by the Judges; and Home Rulers are all the more satisfied because Sir James Hannen has thrown the *onus probandi* on the Times and has decided that all documents in its possession are to be produced when called for. The Commission then adjourned for a month, to a low the various parties to get up their case in the manner in which it will be heard. We may infer, from the opening day's proceedings, that this, the most exciting political trial of the day, will be conducted with the gravity and decorum which befit it. One of the most important witnesses in connection with the trial is Mr. Dillon. Sir Charles Russell, therefore, made application that he should be released from duress vile. The Court pronounced that this should be done, but the Lord Lieutenant has rendered this unnecessary by releasing him unconditionally on the score of the state of his health.

The Emperor of Austria has strained the somewhat uncomfortable relations between his Empire and that of Russia, by the public rebuke which he recently administered to Bishop Strossmayer. The Bishop sent a message of congratulation to the authorities of the Russian churches, who were celebrating, at Kieff, the nine hundredth anniversary of the baptism of the Grand Duke Vladimir the Great, which made Christianity the religion of Russia and brought it within the number of civilized Christian States. This in itself was a startling step, for the Church of Rome holds that the Russian church is schismatical. But a partial explanation of this act is to be found in the interest he has taken in the Slavs and the benefits he has conferred upon them. It must be remembered that Russia is the most powerful of the Slavonic nations, and claims to be the head of the Pan-Slavic movement, and desires to incorporate as integral parts of her Empire, or to subject to herself less directly, as vassal states, all other Slavonic territories. Now, the Austrian Empire contains a very large Slavonic element. Taking language as a test and giving up all Slavs by descent, who speak German or Magyar, there are about eighteen millions of Slavs against about ten millions of Germans and Magyars. The Bishop went much further in his message than an expression of sympathy. He assured the committee of his prayers for blessings "on the universal mission which God has designed Russia to fulfil in the world." This was too much for Austria, and the Emperor evidently viewed it as a kind of Croatian sympathy in the event of war between Russia and Austria. Accordingly, when the Emperor arrived at Bellovar, in Croatia, accompanied by the Crown Prince and the Prince of Wales, he deliberately ignored the Bishop at the levee until after the presentations had been made. Then addressing him in a loud voice from a distance, he publicly rebuked him for the "culpable step" which he had taken against the Church and State. The Bishop replied that his conscience was clear. It is a pity that he should have taken this step, and it seems to me to be so

whether viewed from an ecclesiastical or a political point of view. He has been (and I cannot but think very properly) summoned to Rome to give an account of his conduct, for it surely was inconsistent of him to congratulate those whom he held to be schismatics, and unpatriotic of him to encourage the pretensions of his country's great rival.

I called the attention of your readers (EXAMINER 30th July, 1887) to the fact that the game of football was looked upon with disfavor by our ancestors—and even forbidden by statute. In the new Shakespeare Society's reprint "Philip Stubbs's Anatomie of Abuses," there is mention made of a certain "bridegroom" being lame of a leg that "in his youth was broken at football." This game was among the many things to which Master Stubbs took exception. In denouncing it, his earnestness is only equalled by his verbosity. He says: "For as concerning football playing, I protest unto you it may rather be called a friendly kinde of fighte than a play or recreation; a bloody and nurthing practice, than a felowly sport or pastime. For dooth not every one lye in waight for adversarie, seeking to overthrow him and to picke him; on his nose though it be upon hard stones? In ditch or dale, in valley or hill; or what place soever it be, he careth not so he have him down. And he that can serve the most of the fashion he is counted the only fellow, and who but he? So that by this means, sometimes their necks are broken, sometimes their backs, sometimes their armes; sometime one part thrust out of joynte, sometime another; sometime their nose gush out with blood; sometime their eyes start out; and sometimes hurt in one place, sometime in another. But whosoever scapeth away the best goeth not scot free, but is either sore wounded, craised and bruised so that he dyeth of it or he scapeth very hardly, and no marvel for they have the sleights to meet one betwixt two, to dash him against the hart with their elbows, to hit him under the short ribbes with their griped fists, and with their knees to catch him upon the hip, and to pitch him on his neck with a hundred such murdering devices; and hereof groweth envie, malice, rancour, cholour, hatred, displeasure, enmitie and what not els; and sometimes fighting, brawling, contention, quarrel-picking, murther, homicide, and great effusion of blood, as experience dayly teacheth."

A very little inquirer asked me one day this week where the words "skin of my teeth" were to be found in the Book of Job. He had seen them mentioned in a former issue of "Varia" as being taken from the Bible, but had not been able to find where they occur. They are to be found in the 29th verse of the 19th chapter of Job: "my bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth."

Provincial Teachers' Association.

FRIDAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention met at 2 p. m. Mr. Montgomery gave a full and very interesting account of the proceedings at the inter-provincial convention, held at St. John, N. B., recently. He recommended that the executive committee make an effort to secure the services of Col. Parker, at a future meeting. The Colonel is a well-known educationist, and he thought that his presence here would have a salutary effect upon the work of the association.

The discussion relative to some alleged defects in our educational system, adjourned from the forenoon, was resumed, the President, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. McLeod, and Messrs. Matheson, Gallant, Campbell, McPhail and others taking part. Mr. McSwain, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following report, which was unanimously adopted: President—L. Miller. Vice-Presidents—Neil McLeod, Wm. Cain and Miss Barr. Secretary—Allan Stewart. Corresponding Secretary—Francis Curran. Executive Committee—J. P. Wickham, A. D. Macdonald, James Daly, Henry Campbell, Miss Sarah Harris and Miss Mary Lawson. Hearty votes of thanks were tendered the Board of Trustees for the free use of hall; to Superintendent Unsworth for courtesies extended, and to Miss Barr for the lively interest she had taken in connection with the arranging of the entertainment.

A very pleasant "social" was held in the evening, at which there were glees and choruses by Miss Barr and her pupils and by a club of St. Dunstan's College students, vocal solos by Prof. McLeod, Mr. A. Gallant, Mr. D. Gallant, and Mr. Celestine Gauthier—Miss Arsenault presiding at the organ; and a very amusing recitation—a pectical medley, affording ludicrous contrasts and funny suggestions—by Mr. Charles Kiely; there was also something to refresh the body of the inner man. Convention adjourned till next year.

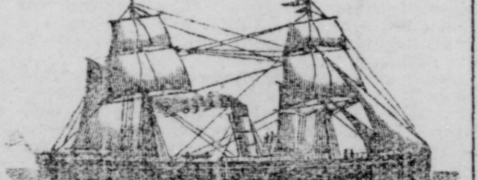
Local Notices.

Nap Recfers, very cheap, at L. E. Prowse's, Oak-mounted Peppers, Salts, Mustards, &c., received to-day at E. W. Taylor's. Prowse, the Hatter, never loses the combination on big bargains. L. E. Prowse leads the trade in Clothing. The weather is getting cold, and the mercury may fall, but it can't fall as low as prices on Clothing at L. E. Prowse's.

WANTED.

TO GO TO WALLACE, N. S., Ten or Twelve TEAMSTERS, to drive double teams. Apply at the Osborne House to J. A. TOBIN, this evening and on Monday. oct6-11

For St. John's, Newfoundland.



THE S. S. "NON-VISTA," for St. John's, Newfoundland, will be due at Charlottetown on MONDAY, 8th October, and will carry Cattle and Sheep on deck. For Freight or Passage apply to PEAKE BROS. & CO., Agents. oct6-11

A Daring Act.

A BURGLAR ENTERS THE RESIDENCE OF HENRY WEEKS, ESQ., AND IS FRIGHTENED OFF BY MRS. WEEKS AFTER A STRUGGLE.

BETWEEN eight and nine o'clock on Thursday evening last, as Mrs. Henry Weeks and a lady friend were sitting in the dining room of the former's residence, corner of Pownall and Kent streets, they heard a slight noise in the hallway. Thinking it was Mr. Weeks coming in they at first paid no attention to it; but on its being repeated and no one showing up, Mrs. Weeks went out to investigate. The hall lamp was lighted, and the first sight that met her eyes was a stranger coming out of one of the front rooms with a marble clock, some views, a stereoscope, and other articles, under his arms. She ran up to him, and catching him by the collar, asked, "What are you taking my things for?" The intruder replied, "I beg your pardon," and dropped his load upon the floor, breaking the clock in several pieces. Mrs. Weeks did not feel like accepting the apology, and held on to the intruder's collar. By this time her lady friend came to her assistance. The stranger struggled with the two and succeeded in breaking away from them, and getting out to the verandah. Here the ladies captured him again, and there was another struggle. But finally he got one leg over the verandah rail, and wrenching himself free sped away in the darkness, leaving a dark brown straw hat as a souvenir of his visit, and carrying off Mrs. Weeks' card case and cards. Mrs. Weeks did not recognize her unwelcome visitor, but describes him as a smooth-faced young man, dressed in dark clothes with dark shirt, and thinks she would know him again if she saw him. As he did not exchange cards, and the hat captured by Mrs. Weeks, and her friend is similar to those worn by many young men, the police are unable to place him. The burglar was exceedingly cheeky, walking in through the front door, and along a brilliantly-lighted hall to the room from which he was removing the articles when detected. This is not the first time that an attempt has been made to burglar the residence of Mr. Weeks, as a short time ago Mrs. Weeks found the fastening of one of the front windows on the middle of the floor, on going into the room early in the morning. In view of these facts we need not urge upon citizens generally the necessity of securely fastening their windows and doors in the evening.

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CHARLOTTETOWN FOR BOSTON.

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Saturday, 20th October,

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The "HALIFAX" has been specially built and fitted for the trade, has spacious Saloons and Staterooms, is elegantly furnished throughout and lighted with electric light.

Round Trip Excursion Tickets, First-class to Boston and Return.

good to stay over in Boston three days, will be issued for the first trip at Charlottetown and all Booking Stations on P. E. Island Railway at following rates:—

Table with 2 columns: Destination and Price. Includes routes like Tignish, Alberton, Brantford, etc.

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RICHARDSON & BARNARD, Lewis' Wharf, Boston. October 6, 1888.

Apples, Plums, &c.

BY AUCTION, on MONDAY, October 8th, at 10.30 o'clock:— 75 Barrels NOVA SCOTIA APPLES, in Choice Gravensteins, &c.

—ALSO— A Lot of NOVA SCOTIA PLUMS, in Barrels and Baskets. A. McNEILL, Auctioneer. oct6

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