

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements or opinions of our correspondents.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

SIR.—Yesterday afternoon my attention was drawn to the leading article in your issue of Monday, and though its main purpose seems to be to drag the Normal School into the discussion which is at present going on about the Prince of Wales' College—a discussion in which it would be imprudent for me to take any part, yet there are some statements in the article that I am forced to notice, and which, in my opinion, would not have been made had the writer sincerely wished to give both sides to the question. Before showing that the idea of amalgamation, which I brought before the Board of Education last summer, may be accomplished without running down either the one institution or the other, I beg to correct one or two of the subordinate ideas in the article which may tend to mislead. In the first place, the test applied to the work of the Normal School to show its inefficiency is not a legitimate one. The Normal School is not a mere collegiate institution in which students are prepared to pass an examination that has unwittingly been misnamed the "Normal School Examination." The success or failure of a candidate, whether he hails from a country school, the Prince of Wales College, or the Normal School, brings credit or discredit on a school or system, which has afforded him the means of acquiring the rudiments of his education for a longer period than a few months; and truly, in the case of the Normal School, the length of the time, and the average age of the students attending it, show that they could not possibly have received the most necessary part of the instruction required to pass the examination within its walls. The Normal School, unlike the Prince of Wales College, is an institution at which men and women are trained to be teachers, and was not established merely for the purpose of giving them a certain amount of information in Geography, Grammar, &c.; in fact, this idea has always been kept prominently before the students and the country from the day that the door of the institution was opened. In as far as the examination for license is concerned, the teachers of the Normal School present the subjects required by such simple methods as may be employed by the students when they become teachers in our country schools; and if any one supposes for a moment that I or any one interested in the welfare of the Normal School objects to the late examination on account of the number that passed, they will see their mistake by comparing the number who received Licenses with the number that received Diplomas. The figures are about the same in both cases, so that there need be no cause of dissatisfaction, in keeping to a true comparison, with the ratio of the Normal School students who passed, and the ratio of one to three of the College students who passed. Indeed, the intelligence of the candidates from the Normal School can not be so insidiously impugned, when it is known that only sixty students are regularly enrolled each term. But this is beside the question. The true test to be applied to the work of the Normal School is the efficiency of the students who have gone to the country to teach, and, of course, I need not say that any marked improvement cannot be seen within a year's time, even in their work.

But the article is, further, very unjust to the intelligence of the youth of Prince Edward Island and the teachers who prepare them for entering the Normal School. The papers published in your columns are those for third class license, with one or two of the easiest for first and second, while there is really no complaint made in regard to the number that have passed for third class license. In other words, it has been said that the students who tried for first class license could not answer the third class papers, which they never attempted. Why are the first class papers not published, and why, especially, has the first class paper on Arithmetic been kept in the background, and the Algebra, the Trigonometry and the other higher branches? The fact is, the papers published are not the papers which the candidates failed in; and what is more, had the students who tried for first or second class been successful in every paper but Arithmetic, such success would not have been placed to their credit. Unless the candidates make their percentage on Arithmetic, all their other work, however excellent, is not considered,—their papers, I believe, are not even looked at. Now, the first class candidates all failed for Arithmetic—a paper prepared by Professor Anderson—and this paper has not been published, though by the difficulty of the questions in it, as alone, in this case, be tested the intelligence of the candidates who failed, and though students themselves have openly complained that it contains questions that are far beyond what was expected, and even beyond the knowledge to be acquired from the authorized text-book. These complaints I have not investigated. They are neither made against the Normal School nor by the Normal School; they are complaints made by candidates who were never students of that institution, and thus when I make this explanation, I do so not to prove that the work of the Normal School is good, bad or indifferent—the Province will judge of that by and by—but I make it in order that the students who failed, and whose interests as a friend I have promised to protect, may not be subjected to insult while laboring under the impression that they have been treated unjustly.

There is another slight mistake which I wish to rectify. The summer term of the Normal School is hardly four and a half months—the half being taken up in the examinations on entering and withdrawing. The last term was further shortened by the effects of the epidemic which visited the town in November, so that three-fourths of the students barely made the necessary 75 per cent. of attendance. Other complaints have been made by the students in regard to the examination, but as the Board of Education will consider them at its next meeting, I need not mention them here.

This communication is already too long, and I dare not take up more of your space. Still I must say that I am sorry that any one has thought it necessary to do an injury either to the Normal School or its students in order to promote what probably would prove a benefit to the Province—the amalgamation of two institutions—and what I have shown several members of the Board would be a saving of between two and three thousand dollars. The fact is that the present Local Government some time ago adopted such a policy, at my suggestion, and as far as I know they are still willing to carry it out. It is a little too early for any one to discuss the details of the pro-

posed amalgamation. I don't think there will be any trouble as to the management of the institution when once it is organized in a commodious and suitable building. I do not send this necessarily for publication. I have tried to lay the matter before you plainly and impartially, and it is for you to decide whether the case you put is a fair one. You can make my arguments your own if you choose, for in a case of this kind, where neither violence nor abuse is necessary in the argument, I am always willing to give my version of the story. I would have been glad to have given it to you, had you called on me, before you inserted the article in your columns. Yours respectfully,

Jan. 23, 1879. JOHN HARPER.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Ottawa News—A Post Office Robbed.

AFGHAN NEWS.

THE FALL OF McMAHON.

OTTAWA, Jan. 30.
Hon. Mr. Bowell left for Belleville this morning.
The Minister of Justice returned to the city to-night. It is probable that the nominations in East Aastings will take place about the 19th or 20th February.
Heavy batches of contractors arrived last evening and this, although there are said to be over a hundred now in the City, but not more than ten tenders will, it is believed, result from their deliberations.
The Templeton Post Office was broken into last night, and several registered letters taken from the Postmaster's desk, which was forced open.

LONDON, Jan. 30.
The Times' despatch from Khosta represents that Whali Mahomet, brother-in-law to Shere Ali, is very influential with the various tribes, and his surrender to the British will be of great importance in connection with the advance on Cabul.

The Times' Paris dispatch says MacMahon's fall has become necessary. It will not produce an ill effect at home or abroad, and will be a positive relief.

The Cause of the Wealth of the French.

Much of the success of France has been ascribed to the subdivision of the country into small farms, which, thoroughly tilled, support a large population. Although we do not usually regard France as agricultural, she produces more wheat, it is said, than the whole of the United States. Her crop for 1868 is represented at 350,000,000 bushels, while the United States for the same year was only 243,000,000 bushels. Wines, silks, laces, oil and fine fabrics of divers kinds are not her sole exports; she sends enormous quantities of grain, butter, eggs and other household products to Great Britain. Two-thirds of the entire area of France is under cultivation, while little over one-third—if so much—is under cultivation in the United States, and her farms yield, on an average, per acre three or four times what the broad regions of the West do.

The Northern Passage Exploring Expedition.

Authentic intelligence has been received from the Governor of Eastern Siberia that Prof. Nordenskjöld's steamer "Vega" is ice-bound 40 miles from East Cape. The authorities of Jukstak have been instructed to issue a general summons to the natives to assist the expedition. A special relief expedition of reindeer and dog sledges has been organized, but it is feared their assistance will be too late. A Russian man-of-war from the Pacific station will shortly proceed to Behring's Straits, to endeavor to extricate the "Vega" or bring off the crew.

THE COST TO RUSSIA OF THE LATE WAR.—The truth seems to be gradually leaking out respecting the cost to Russia of the late war. A native journal, the *Russki Pravda*, calculates the expense at two milliards of roubles. The equivalent in sterling of 2,000,000,000 roubles at the par of 37½ pence, is about £312,000,000. It is not stated in the Reuter's telegram, through the medium of which this intelligence is transmitted, whether the estimate includes the indirect losses accruing through the war to Russian subjects, but we presume, from the magnitude of the amount, it must do so.—*Financier*.

THE Railway track if clear from end to end; and trains were on time to-day.

A "BONNET HOP" will take place in the Athenaeum, on the evening of Thursday next.

Special Notices.

WILDEY LODGE, No. 27, I. O. O. F.—Regular meeting to-morrow evening, (Friday), the 31st inst., at 8 o'clock, sharp. A full attendance is requested. Initiatory Degree. C. F. YATES, Rec. Sec'y.

CHOICE GREEN GRAPES only 28c. per lb. at W. F. CARTER'S.

CUTLER'S POCKET INHALERS cure Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma, Hoarseness, and all diseases of the throat and lungs. Sold at the Apothecaries' Hall, Jan 24—tf

CHOICE LEMONS and Oranges at W. F. CARTER'S.

If See See Jones had put in the nine wells that have failed in the city (as per report by City Marshal), they would be all right now, the same as Owen Connolly's, Thos. Casley's, Paul Lea's, McKinnon & McLean's, and 200 more that he has put in. The best is the cheapest in the end. Address C. C. JONES, Box 163, Charlottetown.—sm 2w

ALL kinds of Preserves suitable for sick people at W. F. CARTER'S. j29 2w eod

APPLES by the barrel, bushel or peck cheap at W. F. CARTER'S.

It will pay you to buy your Dry Goods at J. B. McDonald's.

EVERY one in search of Cheap Goods should go to J. B. McDonald's.

SPECIAL

—AT THE—
LONDON HOUSE.

150 Pairs Canadian
ALL WOOL BLANKETS!

are being closed out very low.
THE BALANCE OF
Ladies' Mantles and Ulsters,

at a great reduction, to clear.
The Balance of,
WINTER SHAWLS!

very low, to clear.
The Balance of
Ladies' Fur Caps and Muffs.

—AND—
GENTS' FUR CAPS,

greatly reduced, to clear.
A Lot of Ladies' Black
QUILTED SKIRTS

marked down, to clear.
MEN'S
Flannel Shirts
UNDERSHIRTS

—AND—
DRAWERS!

VERY CHEAP.
COTTON
BED-TICKINGS

SPLENDID VALUE,
just received by "Northern Light."

—:—
READY-MADE
DEPARTMENT

Unusually Good Value in
ULSTERS,

OVERCOATS,
REEFERS, &c.,

A Lot of
Boys' Reefing Jackets,

at \$2.00 each, very low to clear them out.
Good useful Goods at Great Bargains.
GEO. DAVIES & CO.
Jan. 14, 1879.

GREAT
CLEARANCE SALE
DRY GOODS!

From this Date,
DECEMBER 29, 1878,
FOR CASH ONLY,

AT A DISCOUNT OF FROM
20 to 25 Per Cent.,
FOR ONE MONTH,
—THE—
Following Goods!

French Merinos,
French Delaines,
French Cashmères,
French Twills,
Parmattas,
Henrietta Cloth,
Persian Cords,
Brilliantines,
Lamas, Lustres,
Russel Cords,

FANCY DRESS GOODS!

Anglais Merinos,
Balmoral Crapes,
Crapes,
Dress Cloths,
Mantle Cloths and
Ulster Cloths,

WINEYS!

Plain, Checked, Fancy and Striped
Silk Velvets,
Velvetines,
Black Silks,
Colored Silks,
Fancy Silks,
Ladies' Skirts,
Corsets,
Ties,
Fancy Wove Goods,

SHAWLS,

ONE HALF PRICE.
RIBBONS,
Artificial Flowers and Feathers!

ONE HALF PRICE.
Ladies' Ulsters,
Ladies' Jackets and
Mantles,
Blue Serges (all wool),
Scarlet Flannels,
Wool Scarfs and Ties,
Umbrellas,

Jeans, Tickings,
Shirtings,
Ladies' Cloth and Kid Gloves, =
Ladies' Skating Gloves.

Brussels Carpets,
Tapestry "
2-ply Scotch "
3-ply Scotch "
Union "
44 Hemp "
64 Felt "
44 Felt "
5-8 Stair "
2-4 Stair "

Felt Crumb Cloths,
Linen Crumb Cloths,
Stair Damask,
Curtain Damask,
Curtain Reps,
Table Damasks and
Table Linens,
Toilet Covers,
Blankets,
Counterpanes &
Bed Covers.

CURTAINS!

In Muslin and Lace—Very Cheap.
Damask, Turkey, Cloth and Felt

TABLE COVERS!
OIL TABLE CLOTH,
FLOOR OIL CLOTH.

Buff, Green and White
Window Hollands,

Ladies' Fur Muffs,
from Fifty-six cents,
in Musquash,
Monkey,
Badger,
Chinchilla,
Imitation Seal,
Grebe,
Imitation Mink
and Mink.

Men's Made Clothing, Hats, Fur Caps, &c.
Shirts, Underclothing, and a variety of
articles too numerous to mention.

J. D. MASON & CO.,
QUEEN STREET,
Charlottetown, Dec. 30, 1878—

Administrator's Notice.

THE undersigned, Administrator of the Estate of ROBERT ORR, late of Charlottetown, deceased, intestate, hereby notifies all persons indebted to the said Estate to make immediate payment to him; and all persons having claims or demands against the said Estate are hereby required to exhibit such claims and demands, duly attested, to him for payment within twelve months.

JOHN MCPHEE,
Administrator.
Ch'town, Jan. 8th, 1879—2w 2aw

Mortgage Sale.

TO be sold, by Public Auction, on **Tuesday, the 25th day of February 1879,** at the Court House in Summerside, at 12 o'clock of the same day, under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in an Indenture of Mortgage, dated the first day of November, 1873, and made between Donald McLellan, of Lot 14, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, and Margaret, his wife, of the one part, and Daniel Hodgson, of the other part,—

ALL that tract, piece and parcel of land, described as follows: Commencing at a stake fixed on the west bank of Grand River, being the south boundary of a tract of land owned by Andrew McLellan, running from thence by a line running north seventy degrees west along the said Andrew McLellan's land twenty-three chains and fifty links; thence at a right angle west seventy degrees east five chains to Frederick McDonald's land; thence north seventy degrees west eighty-seven chains; thence west seventy degrees south ten chains to John McLellan's east line; thence south seventy degrees east along said line six chains; thence east seventy degrees north five chains; thence south seventy degrees east sixty-one chains to the Main Road; thence westwardly along the road five chains to John McLellan's east line; thence along said line south seventy degrees east to the shore of Grand River, aforesaid; thence north-eastwardly along said shore to the stake at the place of beginning, containing an area of sixty-six Acres of Land, a little more or less, being part of the farm of the late Angus McLellan, on Lot or Township Number Fourteen, together with all the buildings situated thereon.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Hodgson & McLeod, Charlottetown.
Dated 20th January, A. D., 1879.
D. HODGSON,
Mortgagee.

Ch'town, Jan. 25, 1879—oaw till sale.

MORTGAGE SALE.

TO be sold by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Court House in Summerside, Prince County, Prince Edward Island, on **Tuesday, the Eleventh day of February next,** at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon, under a Power of Sale in an Indenture of Mortgage, dated the 3rd day of December, 1875, and made between John Young, of Summerside, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, blockmaker, of the one part, and Daniel Hodgson, of Charlottetown, in Queen's County, said Island, Esquire, of the other part—

ALL that piece or parcel of land situate in the northern part of Summerside aforesaid, and described as follows, viz.: Commencing at a stake fixed in the northeast angle of James Brazil's lot; thence running eastwardly one hundred and eighty feet (180 feet), or to land lately held by Henry Tupin; thence northwardly on said Henry Tupin's western boundary five (5) chains, or to land lately held by Angus McMillan; thence westwardly along the said Angus McMillan's south boundary, one hundred and eighty feet (180 feet); thence southwardly five (5) chains, to the point of commencement, containing, by estimation, one acre, one rood and nineteen poles, a little more or less, and is part of a plot of land purchased by Thomas Crabbe from Patrick Brown

Also, all that tract, piece or parcel of land situate in the northern part of the Town of Summerside, and bounded as follows, viz.: Commencing at a stake fixed at the north edge of St. James Street, in the south angle of Town Lot Number Twenty (20), running thence northwardly ninety and one quarter (90½) feet; thence eastwardly ninety feet (90 feet) to the west line of Town Lot Number Twenty eight; thence southwardly to the street aforesaid ninety and one quarter feet (90½ feet); thence along said street westwardly ninety feet (90 feet), to the place of commencement, and known as Town Lot Number Twenty-four (24), sold by Very Rev. James Mc Donald by Auction, on the first day of May one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

Also, all that tract, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Lot or Township Number Seventeen, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, and is bounded as follows, that is to say: Commencing at a stake fixed on the south side of St. James Street, running westwardly ninety feet (90 feet); thence southwardly ninety feet three inches (90 feet 3 inches); thence eastwardly ninety feet (90 feet); thence northwardly ninety feet three inches (90 feet 3 inches), to the place of commencement, making and including Lot Number Twenty-three in the Town Plot of Summerside, as planned and surveyed on land formerly owned by Jonathan Weatherbie, and said lot being marked on the said plan, number twenty-three, as therein laid out and described, containing, by estimation, eight thousand one hundred and twenty-two square feet, be the same a little more or less, together with all buildings and improvements thereon and appurtenances to the same belonging.

For further particulars apply at the office of Messrs. HODGSON & McLEOD, Solicitors, Charlottetown.
Dated this Ninth day of January, A. D. 1879.

DANIEL HODGSON,
Mortgagee.
Jan. 9—law t sale