dear otherwans goods but to lern laber trewly to git my own leaving and to do my dooty in that state if life and to each it his please God to call men.

We cite these answers, because they exhibit a kind of instruction not infrequent in schools for all classes of society; and depending partly upon the natural tendency of the teacher to routine, but much upon ignorance of the manner in which the faculties of the mind can be got at and called into play, which is not supposed to exist for special training in the case of some individuals. We do not believe in great stupidity as a common natural gift. Doubtless, it sometimes is so, but as seen among grown-up people, it is often artificial. The bad teacher complains of the pupil. There is a well-known instance of a girl who, at fifteen, was thought so stupid, that her father despairingly abandoned the attempt to educate her. This girl was Elizabeth Barrett, who, as poetess, perhaps, the most learned woman that England has ever produced. In boys' schools it is usual to urge that a system must be framed for the majority, and that study of individual character is impossible. But girls' schools are generally smaller, and the pupils are far more easily subjected to direct personal influences. Their minds might be separately studied by their teacher with very little difficulty: if she only knew enough of arithmetic to understand how to set about it; if she could withdraw her mind from teaching, and could try to realize what is meant by education.

The training of the feelings is a most important point in the management of girls, and is usually the most neglected, as opposed, as they often are, to the subtle emotional influence of music. But most teachers are content to repress by discipline the external signs of temper and other passions, and then think all is done. They want, in short, the knowing how to commence the difficult task of self-control. As this is assuredly one of the first duties of life, so its inculcation should be made the first duty of the schoolmistresses; not by words, but by the whole temple precepts—by apt and timely illustration, and by constant example. To supply these, some knowledge of the mind's mechanism is required; but, where knowledge is wanting, its place may be supplied by the delicate tact of the maternal instinct.

And if Miss Thompson inquires, as she possibly may do, what all this has to do with health, we shall be prepared to answer. There is no habit more conducive to health as equanimity; and, in a life chequered by the ordinary amount of cares and trials, equanimity can be secured only by habitual control (not suppression) of the feelings, and by that intelligent and healthful action of the mind to worthy and dignified pursuits. To procure such habits should be the aim and end of education; any desired kind of learning will be sure to follow in their train; and the teacher who can correctly Listz's wildest sonata, or to repeat backwards all the questions and answers in Miss Magnall's book, is not to be put in comparison with them.

We have confined our observations to schools for girls; not because we think those for boys are perfect, but because girls suffer most from injurious influences such as we have endeavoured to describe.

GLEANINGS FROM ENGLISH PAPERS.

PROPOSED SHIP CANAL FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC. —While we have been knocking our heads against the North Pole, and the many wearisome leagues which the two continents of America remains but little known, partially explored, and well nigh untouched by the mechanical genius of the century. Of what incalculable service to mankind would it have been and enormous wealth been devoted to effecting a passage through the American Isthmus! This we have not done, while we have wasted hundreds of millions upon powder and ball, gunships and shells. Such expenditure is not at an end, and we still take place Whatever the Peace Party may say, we are still far enough removed from the time when the smiling infant shall lay its hand with impunity upon the speckled snake. Russia and France are not slow to covet an extension of territory. Let us do what is necessary for self-defence and to preserve the national character, upon which the empire depends, but at the same time, when we turn our thoughts aside to works of peace, to ages of discovery, to great enterprises in foreign [illegible] and necessary work. Now to cut a ship canal through the Isthmus is a work which concerns mankind. We care not at what point of the American Isthmus between the north of San Juan and Panama the communication be established that of the Atrato which falls into the Gulf of Darien to be bound, but at some point or another, unless the Baron Humboldt and French engineers acknowledge themselves vanquished, the work must be done. Hitherto the scheme has been almost entirely in the hands of projectors; it has not been attended to the dominion of commerce, industry and common sense. Some 15 or 20 projects have from time to time been brought under public notice, some of them apparently recommending themselves to favorable consideration by the plans and soundings set forth, but, as we are a people of impulse and dilettanteism, they have not received much attention We except, of course, the immature plan which was to have been carried out by a union of English and American capital; that dropped with the death of its patron. The time, however, has at length arrived when this matter should be taken into serious consideration as a work to be done. First, there is the practicability ascertained,—but will it pay? Will it be worth the while of any commercial intention than to stand forth as the patrons or advisers of any joint-stock company, past, present, or future; but surely, if ever there were a work for which it would be legitimate for men of all nations to combine their efforts and purses, it would be the union of the Atlantic and Pacific waters. Many surveys have been made of the country between Nicaragua and the Isthmus of Panama. Let each of them be carefully examined. If it appears that we have no more information to expect from the surveyors, then let the best existing plan be chosen. If, on the other hand, the surveys are incomplete or manifestly unsatisfactory, let competent men be despatched to the scene of action. In a very few weeks, with proper data before them, our own engineers and those from the Atlantic would furnish us with the necessary estimates.

Now as we before said, we have not the smallest preference or the slightest preconceived opinion on the side of one project over another. We are not desirous to see the canal exclusively in the hands of British monopolists. The work affects the common interests of mankind, and the more numerous the nations which are concerned in it the fewer are the chances that the free passages will be interrupted by the contingencies of future wars. We were however, about to make particular mention of one scheme which is propounded this evening in our columns. This scheme may be, we know, be the best, or the worst, but at least it is clear and precise. This public notice of it may elicit discussion and provoke objection and that is the end which we have in view. Mr William M'Dermott published in 1846 a work on the isle of Her Majesty's ship Espiegle, on the Darien expedition. He tells us that three years ago an expedition was sent out by the Government of England, France, and the United States, to survey the country between Nicaragua and the Isthmus of Darien, from Caledonia Bay on the Atlantic side to the Gulf of San Maguel on that of the Pacific. The result, according to this gentleman, is, that the thing may be done, and that the best line for the route of the canal would be 35 miles. The harbors on both sides are excellently adapted for the *termini* of a great ship canal. The Savannah river is navigable to the mouth of the Lara. The Lara is the first river that falls into the Atlantic from the junction of the Lara with the Savannah to the Chuquansqua, the distance is 12 miles The country presents no engineering difficulties for canal purposes. The third stage is from the Chuquansqua to the Tuyra river, the latter river above named to the little Indian village of Sucubti and Asnati, a distance of nine miles; the country is of the same character as in the last stage.—The fourth section is 21 miles in length, and is between the two rivers above named to the little Indian village Sucubti.—There is no difficulty here. In the fifth stage, three miles long, the land gradually rises from 180 to 420 feet. In the sixth stage, seven miles long, the rock for the first occurs. The ground rises into a peak 950 feet high. Here a tunnel would be required. The seventh stage takes in a distance of but two miles, from the peak to the Atlantic seaboard. Here is a harbor and a fine level ground. It seems yet to remain a question if this mountain, which encumbers the sixth stage might not be cut through; and in order to ascertain this point further and more minute surveys are required. Such is the substance of Mr. M'Dermott's communication, which we have abridged from his letter, and which we now leave to the consideration of engineers. We are no engineers, but when we look at the enormous works which have been executed at the different points in the civilized countries of the world we cannot but think that the construction of a tunnel three miles in length is scarcely a work from which the human race need turn back in dismay. It may be difficult but, however, that even this difficulty may be avoided; what seems wanted at present is more accurate information.

On every ground, political, and social, we would invite attention to this important subject. Were the canal formed we should be brought into easy communication with the Pacific seaboard of the two great American continents—with China, with Australia, with the islands of the Indian Archipelago. It would be idle and presumptuous in us to expatiate on the enormous impulse which would be communicated to every country by such a shortening of the marine high-road.—We care not, as before said, what route be chosen, so it be the best, if it seems advisable to choose the more northerly route by the Lake of Nicaragua, as has been proposed, let Walker and his crew remain at peace with Nicaragua, a sugar plantation, and let the work be commenced. If the more southerly route, which we have been endeavoring to describe to-day, be really the best, then let that scheme be carried into effect. If, finally, any intermediate point should seem to hold out greater advantages, we are equally content that that should be tried. But at least let us not waste our thoughts upon Polar expeditions, nor our money on the construction of railroads over the dreary steppes of Russia, while so great and so necessary a work as the construction of a ship canal across the American Ishmus awaits execution.—*London Times*.

A young woman died at Guy Hospital on Saturday, the 10th, after having drank a glass of chloride of zinc in a mistake for gin.

An account of Sir Charles Napier's Baltic campaign, proceeding from the pen of the admiral himself, is about to be published.

Mr. Hugh Miller's last work, "The Testimony of the Rocks," which he finished on the day of his death, will be published before the end of January.

An extraordinary meeting of the New Brunswick and Canada Railway and Land Company took place on the 9th, when a resolution was past for reducing the capital from £300,000 to £200,000.

THE "GRETNA PRIESTHOOD."—Mr. J. Murray of the Gretna toll-bar, performed his last splicing operation at the close of December, and he presented the "happy couple" with an eight-day clock, a cheese, and a bottle of whiskey, for, like a true Scot, he has a fund of dry humour. He is about to turn to agriculture. Mr. Simon Laing, having left the loom to take upon himself his new defunct office, is about to resume the shuttle.—*Carlisle Journal*.

Three men lately adopted a novel mode of getting hold of a cash-box, containing about £100 in notes and gold, at a public-house in London. They went into the bar and called for drink; when one of them threw a fit upon the floor and feigned to be in a fit. He gnashed his teeth, threw his arms and legs about and displayed various contortions of body until he had managed to unlock a drawer in which contained the cash-box, and this companion seized it and ran off with it. He was, however, stopped in his flight, and the property was recovered. Two of the thieves were taken into custody, but the third escaped.

MEETING OF UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN IN LONDON.—A meeting of the unemployed, numbering between 500 and 600, was held on the 12th, in Smithfield, for the purpose of concerting measures to relieve the distress at present prevalent among workmen. The majority of the meeting appeared to consist of cabinets, tinkers, tailors, bakers, carpenters, and laborers. Pierce, a journeyman carpenter, acted as chairman. In a speech of great moderation, he stated that it was computed that at least one-fourth of the workpeople in the metropolis had, for some time, been out of employment. He disowned any connection with chartists, and said he wished to obtain the desired end by legal means. Resolutions were carried, recommending a local application should be made to the boards of poor-law unions, and that the Government should be requested to open an extensive system of emigration, and to remove all taxes on consumable articles. The proceedings were of a very quiet character.

Haszard's Gazette,

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1857.

[illegible]

Many persons entertain [illegible] opinions respecting the [illegible] dens of communities, where a newspaper has to lean for support on men holding different views on politics and religion, and where the number of each sect or political party is too small—or if not too small, too indifferent—to give healthy patronage to a paper which would advocate their peculiar notions, free presses, strictly speaking, are rarely found. Political squabbles, in this country, are merely ripples on the surface of society, caused by the healthful breeze of free public opinion; and so long as the general harmony of the community is undisturbed, we hear of the want of a free press; but it sometimes happens that a question of more than ordinary importance arises, the agitation of which disturbs society to its very bottom,—the ripples are swelled into white-capped, foaming waves, which come roaring and surging along, threatening to swamp all small craft, and sometimes giving the huge three-decker a "taste of their quality" in the shape of a briny christening. Such a storm may now be brewing, and the question suggested to us is—What is best to be done? Shall we crowd on all sail, lash the captain to the helm, and, like that renowned navigator Barney O'Reardon, obstinately pursue our north-east course," in spite of the angry elements? Or shall we take in all sail, and scud under bare poles whither the storm chose to drive us? Good navigators have, we believe, adopted both these expedients, and with success. A great deal depends upon the soundness of the ship—much upon the judgment, skill, and determination of the captain—and something on the alacrity and promptness of the crew in obeying orders. We have had some practical experience in navigation, and on the voyage of the Mersey Stewart Bridge, in the first steamboat that ever navigated the Hillsborough eastward of Queen's Wharf, we reckon among our perilous adventures on the "deep blue sea"!)—and know our ship well. True, since we have had command her dimensions have been enlarged, more canvass bent, her spars made more lofty, and as much of the clipper style introduced as will not interfere to keep in sight, with a light breeze, of the old-fashioned of this fastidious age; but she is still the old ship in which we "played the *devil*" many years ago. We know by experience that she does not *tack* well, and have resolved neither to scud before the gale, nor to endanger our *spars* by defying the tempest, but to adopt the more prudent and seamanlike course,—lay to, hoist a storm staysail, and trust in God that the gale will soon subside. So keep in sight, with a light breeze, of the

Subscribers to newspapers are too apt to forget that an editor has to cater for many tastes—has to ransack magazines and reviews in search of something palatable for literary readers—to extract the latest news from the latest papers to please those who are anxious to hear what is doing in other lands—to provide sentiment for the sentimental, jokes for the jolly, and philosophy for those who need it—to say nothing of editorial items. A subscriber, sometimes, not only forgets this, but imagines that every number of his paper is expressly printed for him, and pays for it—or pro-mises to pay for it, which is all the same, he thinks—and why should it not advocate *his* peculiar notions of politics and religion?—forgetting that if it *did* come up to his standard of perfection, his next door neighbor might ask the very same question. Sometimes we refuse to publish communications that would not only not interest our readers, but be very offensive to many of them. The contributer, nettled, perhaps, by a sharp notice to correspondents, in which our *impartial* opinions are expressed, sighs over the thraldom of the press, and vows that independence is extinct! Will our kind correspondents—and particularly those who write on sectarian religious subjects—please to remember that meat and drink are indispensably necessary to an editor's existence. If we opened our columns for controversial disputation to one sect, it would not be a free press unless publicity was also given to the sentiments of the other party. If we undertook to do this, it would give a character to our paper which we never intended it should assume; and although this might be pleasing to a few, it would be the means of excluding much matter, of interest to the general reader, from our sheet, and thereby cause a diminution in our subscription list, and leave us, perhaps, in a year or two, ample time to meditate on the blessings of a free press on a certain big house, where men are incarcerated for being silly enough to trust their fellow men.

Some persons, again, imagine that an editor must of necessity agree with every line that is published in his paper under the head correspondence. This, we need hardly tell the more considerate portion of our readers, is far from being the case: if it were, we would have to refuse many communications, notices, news paragraphs, &c., the sentiments of which we do not agree with, but which we now print because we know such things interest the majority of the community. If we also combine the contents of our paper so as to make it do the greatest good for the greatest number, we console ourselves with the idea that we have acted our part honorably and independently.

Supposing we went to any mechanic in this city, and said: Mr. Labor, I want you to perform this job of work for me, *free of charge*, immediately. It will take one of your workmen only half a day to do it. You may lose some of your customers in consequence of having done it; but no matter for that—you will please me and some of my friends,—so finish it as quickly as possible. Would not every one of Mr. Labor workmen question our soundness of mind. And yet such unreasonable demands are made upon the printer, week after week, and parties think themselves ill-used if their orders are not promptly attended to! When a market house is established in Charlottetown where editors can get prime euts of *free* beef—when shops are opened where editors can get *free* merchandize—when obliging grocers will fill editors' baskets with *free* coffee, tea, sugar, &c.—when a bank is built where editors can load their pockets at pleasure with *free* money—when benevolent farmers supply editors one to each other in making towers of *free* wood in editors' yards, and huge pyramids of *free* potatoes in editors' cellars—when tailors are always ready with editors' *free* suits—when preaching costs nothing, and lawsuits less—when "the streets are paved with penny loaves, the houses thatched with pancakes,"—when these things come to pass, we solemnly promise to establish a "free press," in the common acceptation of the term,—that is to say, we will print *everything*, free of charge, that *anybody* may be pleased to send us

LATEST NEWS.

The Royal Mail Steamship *Europa* arrived at Halifax on Saturday last, the 14th inst. The following telegraphic despatch, received in this city the same day, contains a summary of the intelligence by that and foreign news. The couriers will probably arrive in town to-night with the mail bags.

TURKISH AFFAIRS.—London Globe Telegraph from Constantinople January 2d, Jan. 19th, announcing that the British Steamers evacuated the Black Sea, and Russians Serpent's Isle.

PERSIA.—Reported Persia has submitted to British demands. Intelligence doubtfully received.

BOMBAY AND CHINA.—Dec. 24, reports—Dec. 4th, British took possession of Island Karrack, without opposition, for military depot. 9th and 10th British attacked and took the Forts and City Bushehr with small loss. Governor, Commander of a fleet and Persian Minister of War, taken prisoners. The British Garrison so numerous were liberated. Bushehr proclaimed British territory.

CHINESE WAR.—Bombay mail, Dec. 16th, Factories nearly all fired, and consumed. Doubtful if City be longer spared. Discharge of rockets and shells reported to have already commenced.

Yeh apologised to American authorities, and it is expected they will withdraw from Canton. Affair about settled.

Despatch says French have destroyed some Forts.

BRITAIN.—London *Morning Herald* states attempted reconstruction of Cabinet has been an infusion of Aberdeen party, but denied by *Post*. Generally believed some such reconstruction is being negotiated by party leaders.

Many Men of War

Large shipments to India and China expected.

ITALY.—From Naples accounts are deplorable. A Priest attempted to assassinate Archbishop of Matera. Archbishop was wounded. Canon was murdered. Assassin of Latin was shot dead. Terror reigns throughout Capital and Kingdom.

THE PROPER USE OF THE BIBLE.—In a report of the Massachusetts Teachers' Association, held at Harwick, on the 6th and 7th Dec., and published in the *Massachusetts Teacher* for January, 1856, we find the following passage, which may be interesting at the present time—

"The proper use of the Bible in school was the topic assigned for Friday afternoon. There was much animated debate on the subject. It was the opinion of all that there is a great [illegible] and that it ought to be carefully studied by the Teacher, and its spirit exemplified in his daily walk, and in the government of his school. But whether it should be taught only or in all as well as agreed; that sectarianism is not often taught from the Bible, but from the catechism, and by objectionable hymns which ought never to be introduced; and that this Teacher is not fitted for his office, whose nobleness of mind and heart would not place him above the tricks of sectarianism. It was recommended that Teachers read carefully-selected portions themselves, and that they commit many of the best and most beautiful to the memory; but not to allow the beginner to stumble over its verses, making it either wearisome, or the sport of the rest of the school The opinion was held that the Bible will not be read merely as a lesson, unless to be most highly prized, and which will serve to incorporate its truths most effectually into the character of the pupils."

PUBLIC MEETING.

According to announcement, a public meeting (the largest we understand ever convened in this town) was held in the Temperance Hall, on Friday evening last, "to take into consideration the introduction of the Scriptures into the public schools." On motion of Com. Orlebar, Col Gray was chosen chairman, who opened the meeting with a brief address. Several ministers of the different Protestant denominations successively addressed the assemblage present, each one delivering a pretty long speech and moving or seconding a resolution. We have no room this week for the speeches; and as our contemporary of the *Examiner* intends giving them entire next week, we subjoin the resolutions passed, which will give those of our readers who were not present some idea of the spirit of the meeting.

The Rev. A. Lockhead moved, and Com. Orlebar, R. N., seconded the following resolution—

That this meeting desires to express their deep sense of the services of the Rev. D. FitzGerald and Mr. Stark, in bringing before the Protestants of this Island the Circular Letter of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown, and their opinion that the two gentlemen above mentioned have acted in an honorable and conscientious manner in their places as members of the Board of Education, and that had they not acted so, this meeting is of opinion that they would have been guilty of a betrayal of this fastidious age; but she is still the old ship in which we of their trust.

The Rev D. FitzGerald having been called on, then read the following letter:—

Rustico, 7th Nov., 1856.

MY DEAR SIR,—As a friend of *free* education, I take the liberty of addressing, through you, a few words to the gentlemen comprising the Board of Education on a subject which has occasioned, unfortunately for this country, a good deal of sectarian faction and ill-will throughout many parts of the country,—a subject which, if not speedily removed, will before long impair the efficiency of our mixed public schools. It appears that immediately after the Free School Act going into operation, the Board of Education issued an order to all schoolmasters under the operation of said act, to recite, before and after school, a few select *formula of prayer*. This injunction was complied with from conscientious motives, have silently refused to comply, while others have enforced compliance therewith by threats to parents of children, who would not assist thereat, either *bon gré* or *malgré*. To prayers, in some mixed schools, are now added other religious exercises, such as teaching and singing sectarian hymns, &c. In the Normal School the same practice has been introduced on the wrong men frequenting that Institution, of whom many are Catholics, and are besides made to listen to lessons from a version of the Scripture in the controversies of which they do not believe. This introduction of religious matters into our public mixed schools is the work of scandal, and the whole cause of the present prevailing discontent among Catholics. It is a fact which ought to be known, but cannot be concealed, that the population of this Island is made up of many denominations of Christians, all more or less opposed to each other in religious matters, and although they will live in peace, wish to live, on friendly terms with their neighbors whatever be their creed, yet they dislike as much to see their children forced to kneel in prayer with persons and under a master professing a creed different from their own, as they would if they saw them going into the churches of such persons and worship publicly with them. Moreover, if the Board has now authority to prescribe a formula of prayer for our mixed schools, will it not have the same authority, at any future period, to rescind the present formula, prepare and order another much more objectionable? It is obvious, then, that all parents who have Christian faith, must resist, by every means in their power, the authority assumed by the Board, so objectionable in principle, and so irreconcilable with freedom of conscience. I hope I shall not be misunderstood to mean any thing factious, wisdom and judgment, by which all the acts of the Board are governed, if I avail myself of this occasion, before strife and bad feelings are raised, in a communication happily exempt from religious discussion, to respectfully but earnestly beg of the Board to reconsider the evil tendency of introducing religion in any shape into our mixed schools.

If it be deemed they should work well, the same system as that followed in the Irish National School, must be adopted here. Prayers and all religious exercises, as well as the reading of Scripture from any version not approved of by all, must be discontinued. Nothing favorable or unfavorable to any religious denomination must be inculcated. If the friends of education wish our mixed schools to prosper, their wish can only be realized by allowing those schools to be *godless* under the present circumstances of the country. The Catholics, I am bound to say, will be satisfied with nothing else; and I must candidly say that the British Government is entitled to reassume the confideration of the vexed question, and inspire confidence to all in mixed schools, by proclaiming that in all mixed schools, whether aided by Provincial or Local funds, the masters, no religious test shall be required, or the scholars forced to do or assist at any religious act which their conscience (no odds whether right or wrong) forbids them to do. Hoping that you will have the goodness to lay the foregoing before the Board at your earliest convenience, and inform me of the result

I have the honor to be, dear sir,

Your very obed't and humble serv't,

†B. D. MACDONALD.

JOHN MCNEILL, Esq.,

&c. &c. &c.

The Rev. C. Lloyd moved, and the Rev. R. Patterson seconded, the next resolution—

Whereas "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding," and as this fear and knowledge are made known to us in the Holy Scriptures, which are given to us of God, and contain the words of eternal life, and are able to make us wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, and as the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of