

and comprising works of Shakspeare, Sheridan, J. S. Knowles, Hannah Cowley, and Tennyson, all with pictorial settings of rare beauty and appropriateness, and with acting often of the highest order, and always excellently discreet and well finished, gave such satisfaction to cultivated men and women as they do not commonly get in the theater of to-day.

*Edward A. Dithmar.*

#### A Friend of the Kindergarten.

*Died.*: In Dresden, January 9, in her 82d year, Madame the Baroness de Marenholz-von Bülow.

THIS honored name has for many years been identified with the most progressive educational movement on the Continent, and also, through her writings, with the work in our own country.

Of noble birth and a most influential family, possessed of a rare intelligence united with an intense desire for practical usefulness in the cause she so dearly loved, it is not strange that the womanly intuition and perception of Madame von Marenholz should at once feel the power of Froebel's idea. In her "Reminiscences of Froebel" (translated by the late Mrs. Horace Mann), one finds a most delightful account of her first meeting with Froebel, and the quick grasp of the underlying thought of the old master's play with the little children in the meadow, which to the uninitiated was "foolishness," but to her was a key to the right understanding and development of humanity.

Through the influence of the baroness many of the most prominent educators in Prussia were made willing converts, and most heartily upheld Froebel's ideas of a "new education."

The edict in 1851 prohibiting the kindergarten in Prussia, because of its "socialistic and atheistic tendencies," was a sore trial to all of Froebel's friends; the more so, as the pamphlet which contained the dangerous germs feared by the Government was not written by Froebel, nor was it in any way authorized or indorsed by him.

Foremost among the noble little army whose faith in the cause never wavered, was Madame the Baroness, whose unremitting endeavors, especially with the minister of the "new era," finally succeeded in the abrogation of this law.

Madame von Marenholz has left many valuable works on education. Among the best-known are the "Reminiscences of Froebel," "The Child and its Nature" (translated by Alice M. Christie; also a "free" rendering of the same by Mme. M. H. Kriege), "Education by Work" (translated into English by Mrs. Horace Mann; also translated into Russian, French, and Italian), besides many most valuable contributions to educational and philosophical journals. Of one of her conversations with Froebel the baroness writes:

As we were speaking of the future life, he said: "Just as we know that the sun only apparently goes round the earth, and that the converse is true, so we shall some time know that the present life and the other life lie in the same universe, in which there is no real separation, and in which everywhere there exists the closest and most unbroken connection. Think of my words — separation is only for union there."

*A. H. P.*

CHICAGO, February 12, 1893.

#### The Kindergarten in Canada.

MR. WILLIAMS did not name Canada in his admirable article in the January CENTURY as one of the countries that have adopted the kindergarten. Canada has really taken a very advanced position in regard to the kindergarten. The province of Ontario was the first place in the world to make the kindergarten an organic part of its state system of education. Twelve years ago I had the honor of being appointed a commissioner by the Education Department of Ontario to prepare a report on the kindergarten system. In 1881 the Toronto Public-School Board decided to adopt the kindergarten, and there are now in Toronto thirty-five kindergartens, with an attendance of 2275. The Public-School Board provides all material used, and pays the kindergartners, so that the kindergarten is as free as any other part of the public-school system.

Five years ago the Education Department of Ontario made the kindergarten a part of the public-school system of the province. All training-classes are conducted under the direction of the department, and all assistants and directresses have to be examined by a provincial board of examiners. A special grant is made by the Government for kindergarten attendance. There are training-classes for kindergartners under governmental supervision in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Brantford, and London, and the system has been introduced by the school-boards of several other cities and towns throughout Ontario. The kindergarten department is recognized as one of the regular departments of the Provincial Teachers' Association.

In the other provinces the kindergarten is being established—in Montreal, Winnipeg, St. John, and Truro.

Mrs. Ada Marean Hughes of Toronto has been chosen to preside at the World's Kindergarten Congress in Chicago this year.

*James L. Hughes,*  
*Inspector of Schools.*

TORONTO.

#### California's Presidential Electors.

IN our editorial article in the March number on "Direct Presidential Voting," it was stated that the failure of one Cleveland elector in California was due to the greater personal popularity of one elector on the Harrison ticket. We are in receipt of a letter from Mr. J. F. Thompson, the Cleveland elector referred to, and take pleasure in presenting his explanation of the failure of his candidacy. Mr. Thompson says:

I was nominated for the elector at large, and by all rules of right and of precedent should have had my name at the head of the electoral ticket; but through an oversight or blunder on the part of our State Central Committee, our electors' names were not arranged as they should have been, and the Secretary of State placed them on the ticket in alphabetical order, my name being last. Under the Australian system of voting, requiring each voter to stamp names voted for, the last two or three names on each ticket suffered, the last one being cut the most. I lost in the entire State 311 votes, or ran that many votes behind the head name on the ticket. In practically the same vote, Mr. Hanscom, the last Republican elector, lost over 500, or ran 529 votes behind the head man on his ticket. This came about in part by some voters placing only one stamp-mark after the group, some after the first name, others at or near the middle of the tickets,