

ty to improve. Too many teachers are working out the details of methods and losing sight of principles; that is the trouble.

Taking a word letter by letter is not right. It has been believed right, and today in Massachusetts nine-tenths of all the children learn to read by the alphabet method. Give a whole word, for that is the symbol of an idea, while a letter is not. What is interest and what arouses it in a child? Interest is a questioning attitude of mind, and the eagerness of the questioning measures the depth of the interest.

There is good in phonics, but it does not belong to primary classes. They care nothing about it. We must arouse in them feeling and emotion if we would open the understanding. God has so ordered it that the child must have the best and truest materials of thought. Which is better, mechanical reading of a high grade or an active power of thought?

Both are desirable, but I place power of thought first, last and all the time. Teach morals every moment. We lay the foundation of immorality when we fail to teach in all available ways that all and every part of our being should be used for its best and highest purposes. I would not have a book on morals nor preach long sermons.

Is it possible to apply a method without understanding its underlying principle? No. It is hardly possible to apply a method at all, or to have one. It is almost sacrilege to say "I have a method," but rather say, "I am searching after infinite truth." However, every one must have some method, but what I condemn is slavish adherence to perfunctory form. Principle is where I lay stress. A teacher is empirical who binds himself even to his own methods. Do not teach arithmetic to the child, but train the child in the direction of number. Unity is life, but uniformity is death. Mechanical work will be the result just as long as we pursue method instead of principle.

LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND.

The first European settlement founded in New Zealand was Wellington, which is now the seat of government, and the capital of the colony. The city is located on the harbor of Port Nicholson, and was settled in 1840, by a company of colonists from Australia. It is now one of the most important shipping points in the South Seas, and has a population of about twenty-five thousand people. Vessels reach it from Cook's Strait, named after the great navigator, which separates the North Island from the Middle or South Island. A narrow passage affords a safe waterway into the harbor of Port Nicholson, which is one of the most commodious in New Zealand, and affords secure anchorage. Vessels from all parts of the world may be seen at anchor, with the flag of various nations floating from the mastsheads.

The city was formerly located on a narrow strip of land at the foot of the hills, but, during the past few years, a vast area of land has been reclaimed by filling in the harbor, and large business blocks have been erected where formerly vessels were anchored. Amongst these, the most imposing

structures are the Harbor Board Building, and the general post-office. The last named is a credit to the colony, containing postal, telegraph, money order and savings banks departments, all of which are controlled by the colonial government. The most notable structure in the city is the Government building, which is said to be the largest building in the world. The ministerial and colonial offices are located in it, and it is a complete working hive of civil services. Parliament is held here and, when in session, the city is crowded with visitors. The suburban residences are to be found on the hillsides, behind the central part of the city, where a series of terraces are dotted with gardens and villas. From the harbor these dwelling houses appear as though they were piled upon each other, waiting for an earthquake shock to roll them into the streets below.

The business streets are lined with mercantile houses and shops, where goods are displayed for sale in true English fashion. Saturday is market day, and the visitors soon observe that all the customs and business methods are "English you know." Many of the residents are from the "old country," and they are extremely loyal, as was recently observed on the arrival of the new Governor of the Colony, Lord Glasgow. This august representative of Queen Victoria was received in royal style at Wellington on the 7th June, having been appointed to guard the interests of the Crown. In this colony at a salary of \$25,000. A special steamer had been fitted up and splendidly furnished to escort his lordship from Australia, and great preparations were made prior to his arrival. Wellington put on its holiday attire. All business was suspended and the streets festooned and decorated with flags. The steamers in the harbor also hoisted their flags, and bunting was displayed from stem to stern. All the bands were out, filling the air with strains of music, and one of the finest was a Maori brass band and the natives proved conclusively that they possessed musical ability of no mean order. The militia, soldiers and marines were in uniform and the municipal and naval officers occupied a space reserved for the reception ceremonies on the Queen's wharf. The uniforms of the naval officers were almost covered with gold lace, and it was quite interesting to watch them strutting around and commanding the common herd to be crowded back. The onlookers crowded the decks of vessels and the wharves and his lordship approached from the vessel amid the cheering of the multitude and the booming of cannon. Lord Glasgow, accompanied by the Countess and family, was conducted to a platform, and listened patiently to elaborate addresses of welcome presented by the municipal authorities, friendly societies, ministers of various religious bodies, and temperance societies. Pre-arranged acknowledgments were handed to the governor by his private secretary, which he read to the various delegations.

Ministerial dinners, assembly balls, government house receptions are now the order of the day, and all entertainments and operas are announced under the patronage of "his Excellency Lord Glasgow."

The colonials are passionately fond of sports, the most favorite being regattas, boating, cricket, foot ball and hunting. They have a novel way of "fox" hunting without foxes. A horseman goes out trailing a sheepskin for the scent alongside of the railroad track. Shortly afterwards the hounds are started and the hunters follow, the ladies vying with the gentlemen in leaping fences and following the trail to discover where the improvised "fox" is hidden. A special train is run to accommodate all who wish to watch the sport, and it is usually well filled. National holidays are of frequent occurrence, and the people evidently agree with *Punch* that "holidays are the grandest invention of modern science."

Complying with the request of President Stewart, the Elders of the Manawatu district recently visited the Wairarapa Valley, in order to attend the district conference.

A government railroad has been constructed from Wellington and it passes around the harbor at the foot of the cliffs, and through the beautiful suburban towns of Petone, Lower Hutt, etc.

At last we commence to ascend the Rimutaka range of mountains, and the road winding along dugways and through tunnels forcibly reminds the writer of Marshall's pass, on the R. G. W. The steep grade necessitates a centre rail, rising about eighteen inches above the level of the other two rails, and the wheels of the engine are constructed so that they grip the centre rail, thus affording an effective brake.

The scenery on the Rimutaka is marked with picturesque beauty and rugged grandeur. The train moves slowly up deep side cuttings and dugways, turning and winding around numberless curves. The massive forest-clad Tararua range towering above, and a stream rippling far below in the bottom of the gully. We descend into the Wairarapa valley through scenery almost equal to that of our own dear mountain home.

The valley is quite extensive and is very similar to Utah County, with its clear, fresh water lake between the mountains.

Wairarapa lake is very shallow and affords good facilities for hunting, as wild ducks and black swans abound in that vicinity.

At Greyton President Stewart and Elders O. C. Dunford, J. G. Kelson, W. Douglas, P. P. Thomas, B. Goddard and W. Gibson met and traveled together to Kohunui, a distance of thirty miles, in buggies furnished by our Maori brethren. We received the usual hearty greeting and were well provided for.

Conference was held two days, and reports of branches were given by the presidents.

The meetings were well attended, and instructions were given by the Elders. On the Sabbath three candidates offered themselves for baptism.

The Maoris sustained their reputation for hospitality and the Elders were excellently cared for. After spending nearly a week with the Wairarapa Saints the Elders continued their journey on horseback over the mountains. A ride of fifty-seven miles enabled them to reach Porirua late in the evening, tired and jaded.