

thorough or complete training in any one subject, they have merely made a certain amount of progress in a variety of branches; and in a large majority of cases this incomplete and disjointed instruction is all the education that these children will ever receive. The memorial protests against thus subordinating the primary-school course to the grammar-school course and that which succeeds it. The methods of examination and marking are unhesitatingly condemned, and ample evidence is quoted to sustain the charges.

The awkward and incongruous nature of school-administration seems to be very apparent. The Board of Education, the school inspectors, the school trustees, and the assistant superintendents have various and conflicting duties. It seems impossible to reach any sound basis for progress until these methods of administration are simplified and their efficiency increased. Then the improvements necessary in the course of study may naturally follow. The Public Education Society recognizes this fact, and therefore closes the memorial with the suggestion that a special commission, which shall include some members of recognized reputation and authority in matters of education, be appointed to investigate the conditions as they now exist in New York City, and to codify and simplify the school law. We earnestly hope that this proposition of the society will meet the approval of the Board of Education, and that the necessary steps will be taken to carry it into effect. The committee on reform, to which the memorial was referred, is certainly in sympathy with the Public Education Society. It now remains to so press this subject upon the attention of the majority of the Board of Education that the recommendations of the memorial will be adopted.

THE STANLEY EXPEDITION.

THE *Mouvement géographique* prints the various letters which have reached Brussels from Stanley Falls, and it is only now possible to understand somewhat clearly the course of Stanley's expedition. It will be remembered that Stanley sent a letter to Tippo-Tip. About the end of last year Lieut. Alfred Baert, secretary of Tippo-Tip at Stanley Falls Station, was obliged, on account of severe illness, to leave his post. His reports supplement Stanley's letter.

Stanley says that the route from Yambuya on the Aruvimi to Emin's province is excellent, and that provisions can be readily obtained. He does not say how long it took to accomplish the distance from Yambuya to Lake Albert Nyanza, but he states that the way back was accomplished in less than three months.

On the Albert Nyanza he met Emin, who, according to his last letters, was expecting to meet him there. The telegram of Dec. 23 stated that Stanley had left Emin near the Victoria. This fact appeared surprising, as it implied that Emin had left his province. This report appears to be due to a misunderstanding. Stanley saying in his letter that he had left Emin on the Nyanza, referring evidently to the Albert Nyanza, not to the Victoria Nyanza. After having organized a caravan of one hundred and thirty Wangnana, sixty-six men lent by Emin, and three soldiers, Stanley and his four white companions — Nelson, Stairs, Parke, and Monterey Jephson — left Emin on May 27, and returned to Yambuya by the way they had come, in order to look after the rear guard left there in charge of Major Barttelot, who was accompanied by Jamieson, Bonny, Rose Troup, and Ward. On Aug. 17, Stanley, who commanded the vanguard, arrived at Banalya. This place, which has so much puzzled geographers, is situated in Urenia, and is the same place at which Bonny, the commander of the vanguard of Barttelot, encamped on the bank of the Aruvimi. It is situated about fourteen days above Yambuya, and seven or eight days north-east of Stanley Falls. At Banalya, Barttelot was murdered by one of his men about a month before Stanley's arrival. When Stanley arrived, Bonny was still encamped there with part of the men furnished to Barttelot by Tippo-Tip.

On the following day Stanley wrote to the commissioner at Stanley Falls that he intended to stay there for ten days, and asked him to accompany him to Wadelai. Tippo-Tip declined this offer;

and Stanley, after having sent another letter to Stanley Falls, started on his way back to the Albert Nyanza.

Mr. A. J. Wauters, the editor of the *Mouvement géographique*, adds, "It will undoubtedly be found remarkable that Stanley, after an absence of more than a year in the fastnesses of Central Africa, without any news from Europe since May, 1887, did not push on to the Falls Station, where he was sure to meet Europeans and to find news. But he undoubtedly wished to avoid being asked questions regarding his discoveries, and regarding Emin and his projects, and therefore he left Banalya as rapidly as possible."

He re-enforced his caravan by one hundred carriers of Barttelot, his caravan now numbering two hundred and ninety-six men. Mr. Bonny, the only white man of Barttelot's rear guard, still on the Aruvimi, joined the expedition, which started eastward in the beginning of September. If he returned as rapidly as he came from the Albert Nyanza, he must have arrived there about the end of November.

These reports show that Osman Digma's letter, pretending that the Mahdi had captured a European at Lado on Oct. 10, cannot refer to Stanley or to Dr. Parke. They also dispose of the theory that the "white pacha" who was reported from the Bahr-el-Gazal region was Stanley; and Lieut. van Gèle's hypothesis that these rumors referred to his expedition up the Obangi gains some probability.

Stanley's correspondence addressed to Europe reached Stanley Falls on Sept. 14. As Lieut. Baert left the station by canoe, he did not take these important documents along, which were kept back by Lieut. Haneuse. Lieut. Baert arrived at Bangala early in November, where he met the steamer "Stanley," which conveyed a number of men to the Aruvimi, where a station of the Belgian Company was founded at that time. He reached Leopoldville on board this steamer on Nov. 30. Stanley's letters are expected in Europe about a month or two hence.

THE TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF RHODE ISLAND.

THE endeavors of the Providence Franklin Society to arouse interest in a topographical survey of the State of Rhode Island have found a ready response in the Legislature of that State, and we learn with great satisfaction that the field-work for a map of Rhode Island has been completed. The work has been carried out by the United States Geological Survey on a plan similar to that of Massachusetts, the State and the United States Geological Survey sharing the expense equally. The State of Rhode Island falls upon fifteen different sheets of the great "Atlas of the United States," only five of which are wholly within the State. The total cost of the work to the State of Rhode Island will be five thousand dollars. The commissioners, David W. Hoyt, John W. Ellis, and Winslow Upton, to whose endeavors we owe the taking-up of this important work, conclude their report with some important considerations and suggestions. "The State," so they say, "will obtain a map similar to that which was contemplated in the plan of 1876, on a somewhat smaller scale, at one-quarter the estimated expense to the State. While this topographical survey is complete in itself, for all that it professes to do, it does not undertake to determine the boundary-lines of towns. This has been done in Massachusetts, as supplemental to the topographical survey, under an additional appropriation. Neither does this survey undertake to erect exact and permanent bench-marks from which levels may be reckoned.

"The commissioners desire to call the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that no provision has been made, either by the United States or by this State, for the publication and distribution of this map. To be of service, some arrangement should be made whereby it can be supplied, at a moderate expense, to the citizens of the State, as soon as practicable after all the plates have been received.

"In the atlas published by New Jersey, whose survey has been completed in co-operation with the United States Geological Survey, seventeen sheets are made to cover the entire State. The sheets overlap each other to some extent, and are so arranged as to be of the greatest value for local purposes. Each sheet includes more than three times the surface of a sheet of the United States Ge-