

The clause which states that "The Board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest tender" is in itself an insinuation that none but the lowest tender will be considered; consequently, a young girl who has just scraped through the third class elementary examination and is willing to teach (!) for \$130 instead of \$150 per annum, is able to deprive a more competent teacher of the position.

But this is not all. The successful candidate will have no knowledge of child nature or child culture; she will be quite unable to classify her pupils properly, and at the end of the year the "Board" will be disgusted; she will be discouraged and her pupils will be ruined—temporarily at any rate. Such a teacher spends her time in hearing her pupils gabble over the words of the reading book, instead of teaching them how to read; she teaches them how to string off a long list of geographical terms and names—generally without a map; and as for grammar—she can neither write nor speak correctly. She tells her pupils that they "should have come" earlier, that she "should have went," that she "seen Johnny speak," and when asked to write a letter she either copies it from a "Polite Letter Writer" or falls into the same errors as those whose misfortune it was to apply to Mr. A. G. Cross for the Lachine Model School headmastership.

Now, sir, who is to blame for this? Someone, certainly. In my humble opinion the School Commissioners or Trustees, who are willing to engage any person so long as the salary is low enough, are the primary cause of this state of affairs, for they make their schools a sort of refuge for those who could not earn their salt at anything else. By this means they lower the social standing of the teacher, whom they regard as a necessary evil.

If the salary offered were enough to live on, there would be no difficulty in obtaining competent teachers, and until it is, teachers even of ordinary ability will be scarce in the country.

Yours very truly, PROGRESS.

DEAR SIR,—I was always opposed to making declaiming compulsory, on account of the natural timidity of some children; therefore, I have had considerable trouble in having suitable Friday afternoon exercises prepared, as I have no doubt a great many others have had. A certain few would always have declamations, while others would never have; either from negligence, indolence, or some other cause. One boy told me last winter that he would rather spend all of his spare time at home on arithmetic. Right then I conceived a new idea, and when school opened this fall I put it in operation. One Friday evening I asked them if it would not be nice to organize the school into a literary society, to meet every two weeks on Friday afternoons, and they almost all voted for it. Then we proceeded to organize. I had written a constitution for them, explaining the objects of the society and rules to govern it, which I read, and they were all very much pleased with the idea. I acted as chairman while