

THE CANADA
EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY
AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

MARCH, 1886.

EDUCATION OF TEACHERS.

BY PROFESSOR M. MACVICAR, PH.D., LL.D.

THE purpose of the present article is to outline briefly the following:—

(1) The principles which should guide the teacher in performing his work.

(2) The means he should use.

(3) The qualifications he should possess in order to use these means efficiently.

No attempt is made in this outline to discuss the views enunciated. The brief notes given are intended simply to indicate the meaning and application of each proposition.

I.—PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING.

1. *The mind can be properly developed and furnished only as its experiences are the direct product of its own efforts, and as these experiences are, by its own efforts, transformed into systematic knowledge.*

Hence, the teacher's work should be confined simply to supplying the conditions,

(a) Which will cause the pupil to acquire by his own efforts such experiences and knowledge of all objects, entities, or realities with which he has to do, as they are capable of affording him;

(b) Which will cause the pupil to investigate and discover for himself so much of the truth and of the principles and laws underlying each subject of study, as will make real to his mind all the elements which constitute the subject studied;

(c) Which will cause the pupil to think and to reason on what is partially or imperfectly known to him, until it is clearly defined in his mind;

(d) Which will cause the pupil to arrange and perform his work in such order as will place him in possession, when his work is completed, of a systematic knowledge of the subject studied;

(e) Which will cause the pupil to express in simple, correct and clear language, at every stage of his progress, the knowledge he acquires.