

speak for them. And perhaps we might all find a new and true meaning in the advice of *Punch*, "Never despise your enemy." Though indeed we always think of the English-speaking and English-sprung race on the southern part of this Continent as our friends.

THE HIGH SCHOOL READER.

THERE are better readers than "The High School Reader," authorized for use in the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes of Ontario by the Department of Education." There is little enough in it from beginning to end that is Canadian, and no conspicuous judgment or literary skill can be discerned in the selection and arrangement of the contents.

The highest praise that one can justly give to it is the compliment paid by Uncle Tom to the capacity of his sons when he had been sold into exile, and his heart was heavy with the thought that no one would look after his master's interests as he had done. "The boys," said poor Uncle Tom, "is fa'r. Yes, they's fa'r." So is the High School Reader.

But serious exception is taken by many teachers and parents to the authors represented. There are no less than eight authors represented who are distinctly atheistic or agnostic or materialistic, or whatever else they may choose to be called. This is absurdly out of proportion, not to say more. And the matter is made a good deal worse by the persistent

selection of these very authors for special study in our High Schools. Since the issue of the "High School Reader" in 1886, every one of these eight writers, with the single exception of Hume, has been officially prescribed as "Literature Selections for Teachers' Third Class Non-Professional Examinations," by the Department, which means of course that these authors must be studied in every High School in Ontario.

Why should our boys and girls be fed upon the writings of Huxley and Swinburne? Why should the agnostic dreariness of "The Forsaken Garden," and the dangerous, subtle, sad speculations of George Eliot, and the insidious materialism of Huxley poison the atmosphere of the school-room and insensibly rob the inmates of vigour and progress in faith and virtue?

When Fox had finally exhausted the patience of Lord North he was informed of his dismissal—"His Majesty has thought proper to order a new Commission of the Treasury to be made out, in which I do not see your name." We should like to see a new table of contents for a revised edition of the "High School Reader" made out in which the names of these writers shall not be seen. And meantime let the wise men who advise the Minister refrain from selecting the lessons by infidel writers for special study in our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes—at least until all the other writers represented (including Solomon) have had their turn.

THE LARGEST LIGHTHOUSE IN THE WORLD.—The most powerful marine beacon in the world has just been erected at Hants-holm, on the coast of Jutland in Denmark. The tower of the lighthouse contains two steam engines each of 35 horse power, and these are employed for driving the two dynamos that supply the electric currents for the gigantic Le Baron lamp at the summit of the structure. This lamp when in

use radiates a constant light of 2,000,000 candle-power. The keeper can by means of a system of mirrors control the light from his apartment on the ground floor, requiring only to ascend to the lanterns to repair any damage or to renew the carbons. Mighty fog signal roars can also be sent from the tower when required by means of two of the most powerful air pumps ever constructed.—*The School Newspaper.*