

outside the doors as within the school-rooms. And from another source we find the following: "The ready objection will be offered that school-children are destructive little barbarians who enjoy trampling on flowers and injuring shrubbery, and that it is impossible to train them to respect and care for the surroundings of the buildings. This is a favorite argument with indifferent teachers who assume that inherent depravity forms the subsoil of the child-nature, and that it is impracticable to enlist the sympathy and support of their scholars in keeping the school-grounds in order. The answer to this objection is that neglect and heedlessness on the part of the teachers and officers of a school inevitably promote indifference on the part of the children. Let the importance and advantages of having the grounds as tidy, orderly and attractive as the interior of the building be enforced by the teachers, and the children will quickly learn to take pleasure and pride in the school-gardens. In the public parks great masses of variegated bloom are unmolested by boys and girls playing around them. This is because there are signs of orderliness and care and a sense of refreshment to the eyes which make an impression on the children's minds. It will not be difficult to educate school-boys to respect flower-borders, window-boxes, vines and shrubbery, if teachers themselves will display intelligent interest and affection for the school-gardens." There is not so much cause for complaint in Quebec in regard to this matter as there was a year or two ago. A step has been taken in advance, though it is only confined to a few schools as yet, and we trust that further encouragement will be given to the movement of beautifying the school-grounds even in our remote country districts. Our suggestion of a year ago can bear repetition, and we have yet some hopes of seeing it acted upon, as far as Arbor Day is concerned. "There is more required than the mere proclamation of the day as a public holiday; and what we would suggest is the placing of the whole matter in the hands of an executive which shall by circular and otherwise make arrangements for the celebration of the day every year in all parts of the province. Nor is this all. Some of our agricultural societies have offered prizes for the best planted avenue or the finest stretch of tree growth on the farm, and this should be encouraged until all our agricultural societies do the same. Even the Government might offer a prize to the village in the province whose main street is the best kept and the most neatly planted. Or, if this would present a difficulty, let the school-house be the objective point for the general competition for the