

vacuum. In our humble opinion in the interests of the highest life of this country of ours, it is not advisable to have only one series of texts for all our schools, and more especially, only one series of readers. How would it do, to have only one series of texts for the New England States? That is the question we in Ontario are facing at this juncture; and it cannot be laid on the table by a wave of the hand, even if it is the hand of the government. But whatever the answer may be in the not very distant future to this large questions, let us examine the assertion in regard to lessening the expense to parents by having the texts of our schools authorized by the government. It is a fact that the text-books are changed in our schools pretty frequently. Grammars, arithmetics, geographies, etc., etc. It makes no difference, whether the change is affected by introducing a new book, or by a revision of a former text used for years in the school, the pupil must be furnished with the latest book. For school work, the change is effected as soon as the book is accepted, be it a new book or a revised edition of a former text-book. The opinion of the writer is that if the selection of books be left to teachers and trustees the changes would be fewer than they are under our present mode. People are very slow to make changes when such change involve the spending of money. For schools the real advantage of authorization of school books by the Education Department is the ease with which by means of it the teacher can classify his school. It is for this reason, and not on

the ground of expense, much less time, which in our opinion tells strongly against this plan, that we would be at all inclined to tolerate authorization of school books. But there is one point of our present plan of getting our school books which is purely indefensible, condemned we are happy to say by all intelligent men. This part namely, when the minister of Education, wants for many reasons, known best to himself a text-book on some subject, say on Dentistry (this subject is named advisedly), he selects some relation or friend for the work, just as he would select a tailor to make him a suit of clothes. As a matter of course the authorization follows. Since the appointment of the Minister of Education, now nearly 30 years ago, this unjust and injurious method has been followed. Is it necessary to assign any reasons? To justify such a course is detrimental to the literary interests of the country, what reasons can be given?

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#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

To the Editor of the C. E. M.

Dear Sir:—

The annual convention of the Protestant Teachers of the Province of Quebec has come and gone. It has proved to be one of the most successful, harmonious and instructive held within fifteen years, though less than five hundred teachers registered out of a large concourse. The reports of the various sub-committees appointed by the Executive were concise, to the point, and satisfactory; particularly that of the Pension Commissioners—as it represented the pension fund, in a