

Editorial Notes and Comments.

It is a common remark of the speaker on examination day that the boy who has not a good word to say about his school is not much of a boy. Yet how few boys really have a good word to say about his school or his teachers, and how few parents are there who do not form their opinion about the school and the teacher from the highly coloured statements of these somewhat nonchalant and careless critics. "The boys seem to dislike him" is as often the foundation of a false opinion about a teacher's work as is the expression. "The boys seem to like him." It is as easy for a dishonest teacher to shirk his duty and be popular as it is difficult for an honest teacher to do his duty and escape being unpopular. And yet as the community often takes its opinions about the school from the boys and girls attending it without taking any trouble to know what manner of man or woman the teacher really is, so is the school population often merely a reflex of the whole community. An inspector has said that he could always with a very near approach to certainty discover from the conduct of the pupils he had to examine the general character of the community in which they were to be found. There are communities in this Canada of ours which have no faith in themselves, and we need hardly say that these are the communities in which neither pastor nor school-master can remain long. There it is we find a new teacher once a year, and there it is we find the pastor looking through the influence of his bishop or presbytery or conference for a change as soon as a change can be procured. A writer has lately tried to point out the community that has no faith in itself in these words: We have sometimes thought that we could tell the town that a man comes from by his air. The people of some towns and villages have a depressed sort of atmosphere about them, which seems to say we live in——, but we are ashamed of the place. The typical man of another town by his bearing proclaims the fact that he belongs to a certain town and is proud of it. He never apologizes because he does not live in a larger place, nor explains why he does not move. He thinks he lives in the best place already, and that very fact helps to make his place one of the best. Civic pride has made many a town prosperous. Without it no place ever amounts to anything. We may talk about political remedies until doomsday, but neither Canada as a whole nor any one part of it will ever amount to anything unless our people have a fair degree of national and