

pily, that of Canadian, must continue to look on "dishevelled and disintegrated public schools" with that mournful glance which speaks unutterable things to all but the "book-writing" Inspector and the venal Central Committeeman. Here is the cutting:

"Our friends in Canada (Ontario) are congratulating themselves on the happy effects of their Central Committee of Examiners, consisting of Chief Superintendent, the Council of Instruction, and four public-school inspectors. Under the vigorous working of this Board the High Schools, Normals, Teachers' Institutes, and Model Schools have wonderfully improved, and the wisdom of thorough supervision is once more amply vindicated. We must learn, especially in New England, to trust a few able men with ample powers of supervision before our dishevelled and disintegrated public schools can be brought up to the point that will satisfy people who demand the worth of their money, even in the things that pertain to the spiritual side of American life."

GEORGE ELIOT, *ob.* DEC. 22ND, 1880.

DEATH, at the close of the year, took from literature one of its most central figures, and quenched in night an intellect which, in its range and power, has scarcely had an equal since Shakespeare. "George Eliot" had almost all the gifts with which the human mind has ever been dowered, and no writer, of her sex at least, can be said to approach her in the many-sidedness and profundity of a mind whose creations are as unrivalled as they are diverse. What a wealth of portraiture she has bequeathed to the English-speaking world, those who have followed her creations from "Adam Bede" to "Middlemarch" best know. But richer than these treasures are the revelations into, and sympathy with, a human nature which few have better understood, in all its variety, depth, and richness, and which none have depicted with greater power or with more fidelity to life. Her loss to English letters is simply irreparable, and, in her, literature mourns: one of the rarest minds and loftiest natures which the Divine, perhaps, has ever put into human clay. No

new creation of her pen will hold us again in its spell, but as her place is now among the immortals in English literature so will what she has written pass into the mind and spirit of that thinking, reasoning humanity which she did so much to elevate and ennoble. But hush! "her own words best honour her, not ours!"

ON the question of Spelling Reform, and against some of the objectors to it, Dr. Murray, the editor of the English Philological Society's Dictionary thus speaks very plainly in his annual address to the Society:—"The etymological information supposed to be enshrined in the current spelling is sapped at its very foundation by the fact that it is, in sober earnest, oftener wrong than right; that it is oftener the fancies of pedants and sciolists of the Renaissance, or Monkish etymologists of still earlier times, that are thus preserved, than the truth, which alone is *etymologia*. From the fourteenth century onward, a fashion swept over French and English, of remodelling the spelling of words after the Latin ones, with which, rightly or wrongly they were supposed to be connected; and to such an extent has this gone that it is, in nine cases out of ten, now impossible without actual investigation, to form any correct opinion upon the history of these words—the very thing which the current spelling is supposed to tell us."

SPEAKING of some recent cases in which teachers have been fined for inflicting violent punishment on pupils, an English contemporary makes the following remarks:—"Judging from the accounts printed, it is to us lamentable that teachers should so far forget themselves as to inflict such dangerous and excessive punishment. It appeared to be due to the temper of the teachers. Such teachers transgress one of the fundamental principles of school management—never to administer chastisement when excited or out of temper. . . . Teachers must, as they value the health of their scholars, their own