

old mistress, Spain, is thriving, prosperous and happy, having well conducted schools, surpassing in adaptation to the wants of the people, those of other countries, and affording them an admirable education. As respected Canadian education, one of the speakers (Mr. Brown) yesterday had animadverted on an alleged want of system in the conduct of the elementary schools, also on defects in the courses of instruction given and in the inefficiency of the Boards of Examiners for granting teachers' diplomas, recommending the agitation of these matters until remedies should be applied by the government. Dr. Miles declared that whatever was deliberately advanced by Mr. Brown was entitled to consideration, having known him from his youth and being proud of him as a former pupil, —but Mr. Brown's views on the points adverted to and the remedy proposed could not be concurred in, and there were ample means in our established system for correcting such defects, if they existed, by having recourse to the intervention of the Council of Public Instruction which was charged by law with the regulation of all these matters, the management, teaching and discipline of the common schools as well as the control of the Boards of Examiners. Mr. Brown or any other teacher would, on trial, find it open to him to appeal to the Council, and at this time particularly, such recourse would be more likely to lead to necessary improvements, as it was well understood the Minister of Public Instruction contemplated a revision of the educational laws for the Province of Quebec and had already taken some steps with that object in view.

Allusion had been made by another speaker to the *Journal of Education*, referring to it somewhat disparagingly in the words, "who reads that Journal?" Dr. Miles spoke at considerable length of the claims of the *Journal*, urging various reasons for the teachers to avail themselves of the publication, both as a faithful organ for imparting information of what was doing in regard to education all over the world, and as an available channel to themselves for discussing all the minutiae of their own vocation. It was too bad for those who did not take the trouble even to read the *Journal*, far less suggest remedies for alleged defects, to thus summarily dispose of its merits and usefulness. It was got up with the greatest care from sources inaccessible to those for whose benefit it was chiefly designed, and an inspection of the contents of a single number of the publication would satisfy any reasonable person, who might be competent to pass a judgment upon it, that it was calculated to be a most valuable agent in promoting educational progress. Dr. Miles concluded his remarks with an apology for the warmth with which he defended the *Journal*, which he earnestly commended to the support of every person interested in public education.

At the conclusion of Dr. Miles's address, which was loudly applauded, an excellent paper on "Teaching Kindness to Animals" was read by Mr. Duval. The following are a few extracts from it:—In soliciting your interest in the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals formed in this country, I hope that the efforts now being made by the Ladies' Humane Education Committee in Montreal, to obtain the co-operation of the schoolmasters and mistresses of this Province, will not be looked upon with indifference. The fact that they have undertaken such a work is an honor to their sex, a recommendation of the object proposed, a sure indication that success will ultimately crown their efforts. To this end an address has been presented to the Minister of Public Instruction for permission to introduce certain specified text-books into the schools under control. These text-books are those which are now in use in the schools in England and France. The Committee will also send an

appeal to the teachers in the Province, requesting them to inculcate the principles of humanity and kindness to the children under their care, and giving them advice as to the system to be pursued to secure the best results. As teachers have a great influence in forming the habits of children, of moulding their yet tenders minds and hearts, it is but natural and reasonable that the committee, after due consideration as to the best and surest way to proceed in the matter, have first thought to engage your co-operation in this great work. Every one of you is aware that some children, when in possession of any poor creature, are apt to use it ill; they often torment young birds, butterflies, toads, and any poor animal that chances to fall into their hands, and even take pleasure in doing it. This is a habit which ought to be checked from the first. It will not be uninteresting to most of you to know when and where the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was formed first, and what has been its influence. The first society for the protection of animals was formed about fifty years ago in London, and it has gradually grown to be one of the most powerful organizations of its kind in the world. The Queen has not thought it below herself to become its patron; the Earl of Harrowby is its president, and on its board of officers are princes, dukes, earls, bishops and many of the most eminent men of England. The clergy have not hesitated to give it their support, as is shown from the fact that in one year nearly six hundred English clergymen preached in its behalf. In 1869, out of 1,413 cases prosecuted, 1,292 were convicted; so much for its influence with magistrates. Its influence with royalty may be seen from the fact that, at its annual meeting, the Princess Louise, in presence of a large audience, distributed one hundred prizes for the best composition on kindness to animals to the successful competitors in each of one hundred and ninety London Schools. Societies for the same object have been formed in nearly all European countries, in Asia, Africa and Australia. They are rapidly increasing in the United States and Canada. Why should animals receive special protection? First, for their own sake; second, because protection to animals is protection to man. In investigating the subject, we find that the transportation of animals, as is commonly practised, subjects animals to such cruelty that thousands of them become diseased, and that the meat of these diseased animals come to our markets, is sold there and this in nearly all cases is not detected. Then wonder after that sickness is so prevalent in our large cities. Cattle, sheep and swine by the thousand and hundred thousand are killed in this country every year for food, and most of them with great and unnecessary cruelty. This is done in keeping them without food a long time before killing: for want of proper accommodation they are dragged or driven where other animals have just been killed or are being killed; then calves are bled before they are killed, for the purpose of whitening the veal. In many cases cows are so neglected that the quality of their milk is greatly affected by it. If starved, frozen, or kept without sunshine or exercise, they are liable to become diseased, and their milk is likely to produce sickness. Our crops depend largely on the preservation of birds. Notice that in a country if birds are decreasing, insects will certainly be increasing; it is then very important to secure additional protection for birds and their nests. It is not only cruel to kill small birds for which, when dead, we have no legitimate use, but it is foolish. These little creatures do what no man can do as well—they eat myriads of insects which destroy the crops of the farmer and gardener. A pair of sparrows have been known, during the time they were feeding their young ones, to destroy every week 3,360 caterpillars. The robins are