

the pupils' knowledge. We cannot write too strongly on this subject. Such a paper is little short of an outrage on education. Efforts have lately been made in many quarters to improve the character of the literature-teaching in the Provincial schools, and it is most discouraging to the progressive members of the profession to find their efforts nullified by presumptuous ignorance.

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.

WE have no desire to impose unreasonable fetters upon the profession, or to affect an indignation we do not feel at the failure of not a few Inspectors to maintain their independence by becoming the touters of a house engaged in the Toronto publishing trade. In the past few weeks we have seen not less than a dozen city and county Inspectors violating the professional code and disregarding the edict of the Department, in pursuing an active canvass for Gage's School Readers and stumping the country for a house that has done, and is doing, its best to lower the *morale* of the profession and degrade the status of the teacher. At this wholesale contravention of the School Act one however need hardly wonder, when the cue is given by those high in authority at the seat of education itself. About half of the Central Committee, who are entrusted with the judicial duty of recommending for authorization the text-books to be used in the Province, have intimate trade relations with a certain publishing firm in Toronto, and are at the same time expected to give an unbiassed judgment on the books they are called upon to appraise. This is a scandal that would be tolerated only under a political administration of educational affairs. If we are not living under this evil, let the scandal be removed.

THE PROPRIETARY OF THE "CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY."

IT seems late in the day to require the disclaimer at our hands that the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY has no connection whatever with any publishing house, and

that no firm in the book trade has any financial interest in the publication. For similar purposes it is alleged that the magazine is the organ of the Canada Publishing Company, and that that publishing house and the firm of James Campbell & Son have a pecuniary interest in the property. The statement has no foundation in fact: on the contrary, the serial is the exclusive property of members of the profession, representing the Inspectorate and the High and Public Schools of the Province, by whom it is conducted, as an independent organ of educational thought and opinion, in the general interest of the teaching fraternity of Canada. No firm or individual member of the book trade owns or has owned a dollar of stock in the company; and if the MONTHLY has at times seemed to speak on behalf of any particular house in the trade, it has done so with a view to the general weal of education in the Province and in the truest interests of the teaching profession. Its utterances emphatically are its own, uninfluenced by trade alliances and untrammelled by official connection. Once more we beg that the position of the magazine shall be understood.

THE "FONETIX" CRAZE.

"THAIR iz 2 things in this life," says the immortal A. Ward, "fur witch we ar never prepaired, and that iz twins." The irruptive folly of those who are bent on taking liberties with the language may well be counted a *third*. The good nature of the editor of our excellent contemporary, the *Toronto World*, we notice, has lately been strained to admit the effusions of some correspondents, with "a peccoliar expreshun into thair eyes," as Artemus would say, who are unduly concerned about the spelling of the language, but who are as unlikely to improve it by their license as was the man whom our humourist speaks of, who "cud no moar translait wun ov Virgil's Ecklogs tu a spot than he cud translait a baby out ov a kradle, without it cum apart." We have, in early numbers of this magazine, deprecated the designs of those tiresome reformers of the language who would treat words as visible