

We authorized Mr. Wicks to receive orders for our paper, but not to collect until he delivered the premium and our certificate to our subscribers. Some, who were unfortunately made victims by his misrepresentations, feel rather sore, *professedly* because we allowed ourselves to say that under the circumstance they deserved to lose the amounts they paid, but, *in reality*, because they allowed themselves to be duped. Half-a-dozen hot-headed teachers have written us severe letters, declaring that as Wicks was our agent we are bound to fill all orders taken by him. We do not intend to argue the question, but will simply say that if we are bound to do this we are also bound to pay such hotel bills as were left unpaid in his travels. If a manufacturer employed an agent, giving him printed or written instructions to sell his implements at a certain price, to be paid in six months, would he be responsible if the agent chose to sell at half the price and gave double the time? There are always two sides to a question, and if our correspondents could have considered *our* position in this matter, and could experience one-half the amount of trouble and anxiety we have felt, and which have been brought upon us by their want of thought, they would not have been so ready to blame us, and their hastily written letters would never have come into our hands.

In this connection we may say that nearly all from whom we have heard acknowledge their error and release us from any obligation to them.

We must apologise to our readers for using even a small portion of our space to make the above remarks, which should have been entirely unnecessary, as in our last issue we said, "It is our intention to see that all subscribers lose nothing." We feel now as we did last month, that we would rather see Wicks before making any promises, but as that cannot be we have no further reason to delay our announcement, which is as follows:—

We will receive as cash from subscribers the certificates received by them from Wicks on or before Wednesday, Jan. 31st, and fill their orders for the COMPANION AND TEACHER for one year with premium crayon or chromo "Maggiore." We do this not because we are compelled to do so, but freely and voluntarily to all who exonerate us from all blame. Those who do not do this may retain their certificates if they please, and take whatever action as they may see fit to do, as we hereby positively refuse to receive as cash any certificates from such parties. We shall lose a considerable sum by filling these orders, but while we do it of our own free will, we do not propose to lose on the account of any one who cannot thank us for what we do.

And now we trust that this will end this matter, which has been so unpleasant to us, as well as, no doubt, to all concerned. The idea expressed by one of our correspondents that we have adopted this "original method to obtain popularity for our periodical" is not a bad one, and we are willing to let it drop at that, feeling assured that our action will be approved by our respectable army of readers.

We make a few liberal offers to our subscribers this month to enable them to provide some good periodicals for their families at a very low rate.

(1st.) We will send the *American Rural Home*, a splendid farmer's paper, regular price \$1.15, to any address with the COMPANION AND TEACHER, with crayon, for only \$1.75; or with chromo for only \$2.25.

(2nd.) Leslie's "Chimney Corner," "Illustrated Newspaper," and "Ladies' Journal," are standard publications, regular price of each, \$4 per annum, and will be sent to any address, post paid, with the COMPANION AND TEACHER, with crayon, for only \$4.25, or with chromo, for only \$4.75.

(3rd.) The "Matrimonial News," a highly commendable journal, "interesting to those it interests," regular price, \$2, will be mailed, post-paid, with the COMPANION AND TEACHER, with crayon, for \$2.25, or with chromo \$2.75.

Our readers will please make the above offers known to their friends, and thereby aid us to extend our circulation, and give them a still better magazine than we do now.

In this number we think our readers will find some improvements which we need not specify. We must again apologize, however, on account of delay in issuing, and an explanation may not be out of place as some changes are being made in our business. Previous to January 1st last, our *Company* published two monthlies beside the COMPANION AND TEACHER, and also carried on a Stationary Store. At present we are closing up the latter, and of the two monthlies one has been discontinued and the other transferred into other hands. Our business in the past has been so extensive that the work has been too much of a strain upon the two persons who performed it; hence the above changes. Our readers may, therefore, expect that after March 1st, when our entire attention will be given to the COMPANION AND TEACHER, a magazine, equally as good as the specimens already furnished will be provided; and our endeavor will be to introduce from time to time such further improvements as the patronage of our readers and the assistance of our friends will enable us to make or warrant us to undertake.

We wish we could speak of all Inspectors as we can of a few, who, during the past month, have sent us, not *one* list of subscribers, but *several*, thereby adding considerably to our list. We trust that there is not an Inspector in Ontario who would not be glad to recommend the COMPANION AND TEACHER to those whom he visits. That many do not do it, we know, is because their time is largely occupied with other matter; but if they would make it a point to give our magazine one word of commendation we are sure they would receive benefit in the end themselves, besides having benefited others. Let this be a part of your business when visiting the schools, and many teachers who are anxious to learn, but who might never otherwise hear of our publication, will bless you for your trouble.

In our next number we will commence the publication of a series of short biographical sketches of the authors from whose writings the selections of our Readers are taken. These will, no doubt, prove very interesting to our readers, as they will be contributed by a gentleman who is eminently qualified to perform the work satisfactorily.

For advertising and subscription rates, and particulars concerning our premiums, *see cover*. Send in your subscription at once if you have not already done so. And if you accompany your own subscription with those of your trustees, we will consider that you have practised a good joke upon us. Try it.