

(for that is surely what the declaration means), but must engross his recommendation in a testimonial that reads well both ways, are we coming to the auction room plan of selecting our teachers, or to the competitive examination method? The latter still lingers in some parts of the world, and would be well enough in its way were it not for the kind of teacher it so often selects—the best scholar, but by no means the best teacher. And so the query still remains, What are our school commissioners and trustees to do while selecting “the fit and proper person, and what is the teacher to do when standing as a candidate for a vacancy?

The courtesies of life ought never to be set aside either at church or market, and this is as true when these courtesies are forgotten by a teachers' association as by an uptown club. When a letter is sent to the secretary of a society, some kind of an answer should be sent by way of return; and when the secretary of any of our teachers' associations fails to follow this general rule, the association should take note of his delinquency. From what one of our correspondents says in regard to the seeming lack of courtesy on the part of one of our local associations, we have been induced to refer to the matter in the general, having every reason to believe, however, that the case in point is an exception, and as such will never be repeated. As to the lack of courtesy shown to the gentleman who so kindly offered to give a lecture to the association, and was so cavalierly treated, we have nothing to say. The gentleman has the punishment for such an offence in his own hands. In regard to what our correspondent calls the “slate” affair, I think the less now said or done the better. All the parties to that scandalous scheme should now be heartily ashamed of themselves,

and if they are not then all the worse for their sense of shame.

The question of a Canadian literature, its existence or non-existence, its growth or decadence, comes up every now and again for discussion in our literary circles, and the visit which our countryman, Mr. Gilbert Parker, lately made to the city of Quebec, brought the question out in relief at the banquet he gave to several of his friends. Our teachers are, and ought to be, interested in all questions pertaining to the developments of our common country, since it is through them, in large measure, the coming race is to be imbued with the right kind of patriotism, the true love of country. We have, therefore, no apology to make to them for referring from time to time to the subject of literature in general and literature in Canada in particular. The Parker Banquet has emphasized the present phases of literature in the country, as much from the enthusiasm of the brilliant assembly of the more distinguished sons of Canada he was able to bring together on an evening in the Chateau Frontenac, as from what was said on the festal occasion. The host, on addressing his friends in a speech of unusual eloquence, declared that he found himself in both a disadvantageous and an advantageous position. He had desired at first to maintain his private capacity, though by his proposal of the toast of the Queen it might seem as if he had wished to give the dinner a public character. Such was not the case, however, though as private people they could not divest themselves of their character as citizens of the great British Empire, of which Canada formed a most important part. His sole aim, he said, was not simply to please, nor had he come here with any ulterior objects, such as digging out from Quebec's ancient fortifica-