

take some pass subjects, that, at the professional examinations at the Training Institutes, all candidates with University standing must pass in methods in *English, Mathematics and Latin*, and in *Greek or in French and German*. Additional importance is given to this statement by the following, which I quote from the Regulations: "The Departmental Examiners shall have power to reject any candidate (at the professional examinations,) who may show himself deficient in scholarship." Let me add also, as a note of warning, that, while it is proper that the student should pay special attention to that department which he intends to teach, the attention should be special, not exclusive. The broader the culture, the better the man, and the better the teacher. One of the defects of our system of Public School certificates has been that the specialization in vogue has had, and may still have, a narrowing and benumbing tendency. For my part, I hope that one effect of the recent changes will be to force candidates for Grade A certificates to attend University classes. The liberalizing influence of University student life will, itself, do much to counteract that feeling of sated ambition which has prevented the further intellectual development of many a Public School teacher.

I gladly embrace this opportunity of making an announcement which will be of service to intending teachers. There is, at present, in the High Schools a dearth of specialists in English, Science, and French and German. I quote from a recent report of mine to the Minister:—

"The following statement, giving the number of specialists passed each year since the opening of these schools (the Training Institutes), shows that, whereas, of late the tendency has been to increase the importance of the English and Science departments, the number of those that have passed in these departments has not increased at a rate to suit the requirements of the schools:

	1885.	1886.	1887.
Mathematics.....	8	14	8
Classics.....	5	6	7
French and German.....	1	5	6
English.....	1	8	3
Science.....	1	4	1

Owing, too, to the stringency of the present regulations and the rapid increase of attendance at the High Schools, there is even a dearth of ordinary High School assistants. It is clear, therefore, that there will be positions for a good many more teachers than are now available; and we hope to see a large attendance of graduates and undergraduates at the Training Institutes when they reopen in September.

The editors of THE VARSITY have invited me to discuss the Ethics of the teaching profession. Neither time nor space, however, now permits me to do so. I can only say generally, after long experience as teacher, and a somewhat varied experience as inspector, that, so far as concerns High School masters—for I am in a position to speak of them only—there is no more honourable body of men in the Province. There are, of course, exceptions—in what profession are there not?—but the public must not judge of the ethical code of the teachers of Ontario from the conduct of the anonymous libeller or of the bloodthirsty champion of the July rejected.

JOHN SEATH.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CANADA.*

This little pamphlet of seventy-two pages contains the clearest and, at the same time, most concise account of our local institutions which has yet appeared. While claiming to be nothing more than a mere sketch, it makes for the first time accessible a mass of interesting information, in an attractive shape. The subject is, on the whole, treated in an impartial and clear-sighted manner. Only occasional references to the French clergy, as on p. 17

*LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CANADA: an Historical Study. By J. G. Bourinot, LL.D. Baltimore, 1887. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, Fifth Series, V.-VI.

and p. 28, and the prominence given to Quebec betray the nationality and prejudices of the author. One defect of the plan is that the English influence is not set in sufficiently high relief. Self-government under the French regime there was none, and could be none. The Gallic nations never understood the democratic "folk-moot" that we meet at the very threshold of Germanic history; and liberty to the people formed no part of theories of government in feudal France, old or new. Even the mildest attempts to control the homeliest local affairs in French Canada, springing from the changed conditions of existence in the New World, were always "promptly checked by the governor, the intendant and the bishop," p. 19. The result was "political and social stagnation;" and few lots have been more wretched than that of the down-trodden *habitant* just before the English conquest. The moral that the book bears on its face is this. There was no local self-government in Canada, nor would ever have been, if the English had not developed and applied a symmetrical and comprehensive system for the management of local affairs. Its origin Mr. Bourinot is inclined to trace directly to the "town-meeting" of Boston, and date its beginning from the influx of the U. E. Loyalists into what is now Ontario. But it would be strange if, in the thirty years between the capture of Quebec and the immigration of the British refugees, there had been no attempts at self-government among the English-speaking population.

The object of the book should be to account for the Municipal Act of 1841. This marks the successful culmination of the long struggle for freedom from 1791 to 1837. Without careful study of this important formative period, the first municipal act is absolutely unintelligible. And our author passes it by with hardly a word. He thereby fails to explain an essential stage of development, and leaves the promise of his first page unfulfilled.

And this is not the only instance in the book of inability to trace cause and effect. Some minor blemishes also, as the misuse of "commence" and the relative pronouns, as well as a preference for certain adjectives, detract from the value of the work as a whole. But at the same time Mr. Bourinot has rendered a very important service to the people of Canada in directing their attention to this vital subject. We must regret that no Canadian university has the means or methods for publishing learned works, and that, therefore, a book of national importance should be published in a foreign country. And in closing we cannot help expressing the wish that Mr. Bourinot, with his evident love for his subject, and his abundance of material, will continue his studies and give us a book which will be really monumental.

A. M. M.

DARKNESS.

The sunset sky
Glooms low in fading red;
The gathered clouds sweep on in heavy flight,
Their sides are bleak, their hue as dull as lead.
Chill blows a feeble wind across the night.

The traveller stands
Upon a hill, worn brown;
His face is westward to the waning light
Darkling, he sees the roadway winding down.
Chill blows a feeble wind across the night,

The faint rays die;
The darkness rises fast,
Along the hill-side, o'er the traveller's sight,
The latest glory of the day is past.
Chill blows a feeble wind across the night.

BORNIEN.