

delivered by the Hon. the Minister of Education at the close of the summer session of the Toronto Normal School. In this address the Minister deals with one phase of the much discussed subject of examination in our schools. He reminds the country and all concerned of the plain truth that parents and teachers are responsible for the rampant spirit of examination which prevails in and dominates over Ontario. If he had included the children also, his statement would be more accurate and complete. Unquestionably parents have themselves to blame; for, if they were intelligent enough to have foreseen the evils which have arisen in connection with the introduction of these examinations, they would have forewarned the Minister of Education, and, for that matter, the Government of which he was a member, that the proposed course was hurtful to the true interests of education. That warning from the electorate would have been sufficient, and doubtless a more rational mode of dealing with our school could have been found and adopted. After a quarter of a century's experience, every right-minded man deplors the bitter fruit of our present system. How we may render it tolerable and even good is our duty. The Minister is repeating now what he told us before: we are not bound to meddle with these examinations at all; leave them alone. In effect, he reminds us that we are British subjects; think, therefore, and act as wise men.

The late discussion in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church over the intellectual and theological training of the clergy of that denomination has in it a lesson for every province in the Dominion that has an ambition to make the most of their educational resources. There is not a province that has not met at the threshold of any movement in favor of school reform the asseverations of

Principal Forrest, of Dalhousie College, Halifax, that "All is well along the Potomac, whatever may be the trouble among the busybodies of Washington." When Ontario entered upon its career of educational progress there were heard the cries of the anti-Ryersonites, who claimed that changes were unwholesome and altogether unnecessary. The same antagonisms have been experienced in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and we all have lately been called upon to learn by heart the story of Manitoba's educational unrighteousness, in theory at least. Even in Quebec, where things educational are supposed by some to be anything but what they ought to be, there are to be found men with the cry of Dr. Forrest as their watchword, proclaiming that the elementary schools are better than they are supposed to be, even in the face of the facts themselves, as honestly collected by the Montreal *Herald* and others. It is not our purpose to discuss the intellectual status of our clergy. That question was fully discussed at the Presbyterian Assembly, and the Presbyterian Church owes a debt of gratitude to the Rev. Dr. Milligan, of Toronto, for his fearless utterances on the floor of the church courts, and many must be pleased at the honest endorsement they received from many of the more prominent members present. The thesis now before the Church, and which ought to be discussed in every denomination in Canada, is: Are the men of the pulpit keeping abreast of the times? Is the pew becoming more intelligent than the pulpit? Is the college training of our future ministers what it ought to be? The Rev. Dr. Grant, of Kingston, and other gentlemen of the theological halls, though their own citadels were being somewhat indirectly assailed, took no stock in Dr. Forrest's *ad vulgus captandum* appeal in favor of the east by way of contrast with the