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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

AN UNWISE AND AN UNBROTHERLY AGITATION.....	161
DEPARTMENTAL ALLOWANCE TO INSPECTORS	163
I. PAPERS ON SCHOOL TEACHERS.—(1.) Remuneration of School Teachers. (2.) Cheap Teachers. (3.) Congress of School Teachers.....	163
II. MONTHLY REPORT ON METEOROLOGY FOR AUGUST.....	164
III. PAPERS ON SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS.—(1.) The Daily Weather Reports. (2.) The Law of Storms. (3.) An Important Weather Theory. (4.) The December Eclipse of the Sun.....	165
IV. PAPERS ON THE CONDITION OF OUR SCHOOLS.—(1.) Necessity for Proper "School Accommodation." (2.) What Our School-Houses Should be.....	166
V. PAPERS ON PRACTICAL EDUCATION.—(1.) A Point in Grammar. (2.) Teaching Drawing in England. (3.) Work during Morning Hours. (4.) General Discipline	167
VI. PAPERS ON EDUCATION OF WOMEN.—(1.) Practical Education for Women in England. (2.) Female Education. (3.) Higher Education for Women.....	168
VII. PAPERS ON AGRICULTURE.—(1.) The Duty of a Farmer to his Sons. (2.) The Farmer's Profession. (3.) A Valuable Farm Table. (4.) The Colorado Potato-Beetle. (5.) Extraordinary Vitality of Organic Germs.....	169
VIII. PAPERS ON EDUCATION IN CANADA.—(1.) Educational and Scientific Notes. (2.) Queen's University. (3.) Canadian Literary Institute. (4.) Education in New Brunswick.....	170
IX. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—(1.) James Preston, B.A. (2.) The Bishop of Huron. (3.) Simeon Morrill, Esq. (4.) The Hon. Louis Joseph Papineau. (5.) Lieut.-Colonel Booker. (6.) James McGillivray, Esq., of Sabrevois, C.E. (7.) Canadian Pioneers.....	172
X. MISCELLANEOUS.—(1.) Little Lifters. (2.) Will he Succeed? (3.) Why should I not Smoke? (4.) Evils to Boys of Tobacco.....	173
XI. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.....	174
XII. DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES	176
XIII. ADVERTISEMENTS.....	176

AN UNWISE AND UNBROTHERLY AGITATION.

WE have noticed with regret an unjust and unbrotly agitation against the younger and more active teachers assisting to provide a support for the old and faithful members of their profession in their feebleness and age, as well as providing for themselves, which is now being promoted by two small sections of the teachers of our Public Schools—those who do not intend to remain in the profession, but make use of it as a stepping-stone to something else, and those who are penurious or selfish. A third section, without due consideration, is, we fear, being unwarily drawn into the agitation, and to them, therefore, we would respectfully address a few words. To the other two classes we shall say nothing, as it would be useless to do so; but to the more thoughtful and devoted members of the profession, who have unwittingly given their countenance to this unwise and unjust agitation, we would venture to say a few words. The subject is worthy of their careful consideration and candid judgment. It should neither, on the one hand, be summarily pooh-poohed with a selfish shrug, nor, on the other, declaimed against in the unreasoning style which looks with contempt upon all argument.

Now, what we would ask and answer in illustration of this question is:—

- 1st. What is the object of the fund?
- 2nd. What is the necessity for it?
- 3rd. Who should sustain it?
- 4th. On what principle should it be supported?

WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF THE SUPERANNUATED FUND?

And first, "What is the object of the fund?" This question is the easiest one to answer; but the answer itself is one which, in one respect, touches a tender chord in our nature; and cold, indeed, is that teacher's heart which does not respond with warm feeling to the desire shown by the Legislature (which deals rather with the abstract than with the sympathetic) to provide for the declining years of the venerable and faithful members of his own profession, who, in the earlier times of our educational history, provided the intellectual food for the youth of our Province, including the very teachers themselves—some of whom now indignantly refuse to provide a small pittance for their worn-out, but honorable instructors, and even try to prevent others from doing so.

WHAT IS THE NECESSITY FOR THIS FUND?

Our second question is, "What is the necessity for this fund?" To this we reply, that so long as teachers devote their lives to a profession so generally underpaid as theirs is, so long will there be a necessity for either friends (if there be any, but who are often poor themselves), or the teachers themselves, to provide for the quiet and comfort of the declining years of their brethren, who, in less prosperous days, and with scanty remuneration, led the van in that calling in which they feel proud to follow. Even now, at the salary given to teachers (considering the increased cost of living) it is almost impossible to lay by a sum which would realize more than a few dollars a year. But by availing themselves of the provisions of the new Act they can, on the payment of the paltry sum of two dollars each half year, teachers secure an allowance for life, after their retirement from the profession, of six dollars a year for every year they may have taught school. For instance, if a teacher has been twenty-five years in the profession, and has complied with the law and regulations on the subject, he will, on his retirement, be entitled to an allowance of \$150 a year for life, should the fund permit it, although, at four dollars a year, he will have only paid \$100 in all into the fund; and if he has been twenty years teaching, he will secure an allowance of \$120 a year, although his total subscriptions for the twenty years have only been \$80 in all; if for fifteen years \$90, total subscription \$60 in all; and if for ten years \$60 a year, while he has only paid \$40 in all into the fund. In other words he will receive for his first year's pension, fifty per cent. more than he has paid into the fund altogether! These facts are irresistible, and only show what a boon the teachers are thought-