

what is termed his "remarkable power of thought-reading." A number of public *seances* have been held, at which Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Prof. Huxley, Dr. Lyon Playfair and other distinguished medical men and scientists were present; and it is stated that the "mind-reader" gave startling evidence of the possession of a faculty which enables him to discover the thought of a person with whom he is brought into contact, of reading figures on a blackboard, while blindfold, and generally of playing the accomplished and mysterious Seer. How invaluable a person, by the way, Mr. Bishop would be in our Education Office to read the mind of the Minister, register its vacillations, and supply a gloss to the official documents and memoranda which every now and then emanate from the Department. What a fortune, too, could he make by disclosing in advance those stiffish Examination Papers in Mathematics to the feeble few who are not above being clandestinely "coached" at the critical hour by a friendly master who, however, does not want again to figure in the witness box in connection with irregularities in conducting examinations. By all means, let us import the gentleman.

"THE BYSTANDER."

IN expressing regret in these pages at the discontinuance for a time of this unique periodical, we feel sure that many readers of the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY will sincerely and heartily concur. However Mr. Goldwin Smith's political opinions have been received, there can be no question as to the degree of favour with which the *Bystander* has in general been regarded, nor is there any possibility of mistaking the respect in which its writer is personally held, nor the admiration which on all sides has been expressed for his many and rare gifts. Were any endorsement of this needed, the recent banquet given in honour of Professor Smith, by the Press Association of the Province, is an ample attestation of the fact. Handsome as was that acknowledgment by his brother journalists, however, and most gratifying as it no doubt was to the recipient of the hon-

our, the demonstration could go but a little way towards paying the debt which Canada owes to Mr. Goldwin Smith for his immense services to native literature, and particularly for all he has done for independent journalism. The *Bystander*, ephemeral as publications of the kind are thought to be, will remain an imperishable record in Canadian literature, not only of events of the time, chronicled in a masterly and philosophic way, but as setting up a model of vigorous thought, enriched by vast learning, with a style as chaste and finished as ever came from tongue or pen of a master of classic English. Had circumstances permitted, we should have liked that the Province could have had more of the distinguished gentleman's services in the cause of education in the last few years than he has been called upon to give. This is a matter that we trust the teachers of Ontario will see to on Mr. Smith's return from his year's sojourn in Europe. Our higher education could be inestimably advanced by a man of Mr. Smith's profound scholarship and ripe experience, and University matters in the Province sadly want at present the wise counsel of a trained intellect and a well-balanced mind.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

A REPRESENTATIVE of the *Toronto Telegram* has lately been interviewing Prof. Goldwin Smith, Archbishop Lynch, Father Stafford, Mr. Bain, Chairman of the Toronto Public School Board, and the editor of this magazine, on the subject of Separate Schools. There has also been correspondence on the subject in the above newspaper, urging a fusion with the Public Schools; and the *Bystander* has brought its powerful aid, on broad national grounds, in favour of amalgamation. The subject is a delicate one to open up, particularly when there has been no preliminary overture on the part of the Roman Catholic authorities. But there can be no doubt of the practical gain to the pupils of the Separate Schools in opening to them the advantages of our Public School