

great storehouse of unimpeachable grammar, the *Canada School Journal*. The nucleus of this book, while being offered to a rival publishing house in Toronto, was lately handed us for momentary examination, and we found it instructively baited to catch the eye of the Wellington Street firm, with a liberal spice of extracts from this magazine which only pedantry could sit down to conpile, and a pitiful pedagogism gloat over. This field for the honourable activity of those who do not love us, we considerably abandon to the enterprise; and on the appearance of the work we shall not fail to acknowledge the industry, not to speak of the malice, which stimulated the energies of its compilers. In the meantime we give Messrs. Gage the benefit of this advertisement, and trust that, as the result of the work they are inciting some Masters to do, they will so educate their *colloborateurs* on the book as may enable them, at no distant day, to fledge their pens in composing editorial paragraphs for the *School Journal*. Just let us add, however, that it may save the firm considerable labour if they turned over the task of making extracts from the MONTHLY to the editor of this publication, who, they may take our word for it, has not waited until the present day of grace to take the measure of himself or the "gauge" of his enemies. If one were called upon to sit in judgment upon his own work, we are only too conscious of the catastrophe that would befall the editor of this magazine! "It is well for the reputation of my history," wrote Lord Macaulay, "that I did not review it as I could review it."

"THE BYSTANDER."

THOSE who take pleasure in seeing the topics of the time treated of in a masterly manner, with perfect knowledge and largeness of view, and couched in vigorous, incisive English, will eagerly hail the re-issue of *The Bystander*, though the publication is in future only to appear quarterly. Professor Goldwin Smith's service to Canada in the issue of this interesting and instructive maga-

zine is well-nigh incalculable. Alike to the publicist, the journalist, and to the educated reader, the periodical affords rare food for thought, and an insight into the life of the times, such as no other serial can give, and as no other pen could so ably supply. It is the product not only of a ripe scholar and a man of the highest culture, but of an exceedingly shrewd observer, endowed with a keen sense of honour and of right-doing, and possessing a trained judgment and great knowledge of the world. We hear of *The Bystander* being read in many of the High Schools of the Province as a model of English; and for that purpose as well as for its thought, nothing could be of greater service to English masters. We promised in the present number to give extracts on educational topics from the publication; these, so far as our space will permit, we now append. *The Bystander* may be had of any newsdealer, or from its publishers, Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., Toronto, on remitting twenty-five cents for each quarterly issue.

THE CATHOLIC VOTE AND "MARMION."

It was in the scuffle for the Catholic vote that Walter Scott, of all characters in the world, was sucked into the mill-race of Party and revolved for some weeks upon the wheel, piteously dripping with the muddy stream. The noise of the controversy reached England, and filled that discerning public with exalted ideas of our moral fastidiousness and the ardent interest taken by us in literary questions. To any one not in quest of Catholic votes it is needless to say that the morality of the glorious Scotchman is as pure as the burn that runs down a heathery hill-side. He was too perfect a gentleman to touch anything unclean. A churchman who finds licentiousness in *Marmion*, must himself, to use Johnson's expression, be highly combustible. On the subject of duelling, Scott thought like other men of honour in those days; this is his only weak point. Otherwise, he gives us ground for thankfulness that in him, as in its other great masters, British fiction is pure. Evil betide man or woman who sullies its purity! There are criminal characters in Scott's Tales, as there are in the Bible, but, as in the Bible, they meet their doom: Constance, Marmion, and the King of Scots, all suffer for their sins. That the walling-up scene, and some other passages in *Marmion*, are offensive to Ro-