

No teacher can afford to be without at least one periodical devoted to the interests of the profession, and you should prevail on your trustees to take the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL. Under Sub-section 23 of the 102nd Section of the Public Schools Act, trustees are required 'to procure annually, for the benefit of their school section, some periodical devoted to education.'

This Section of the School Act is too frequently overlooked.

In return for the kindness of our friends, we can only repeat our desire to make the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL a means of elevating the profession intellectually and socially, and we will always be pleased to receive suggestions as to its improvement.

"HAVE I A VOCATION TO BE A TEACHER" ?

When young people choose a life-calling from mere caprice, or imitation, or any other reason but the only adequate one of conscious fitness and reasonable hope of remunerative success, the results are apt to be as unsatisfactory as those of marriages entered into hastily, without affection or means of support. In most cases, young people are wedded once for all to whatever calling they have chosen, nor is divorce, on the ground of incompatibility possible.

In the present generation, there seems to be a reaction against the hard manual work of the two or three generations which have made the country what it is. It is increasingly common for farmers' sons to seek a calling whose chief recommendation seems to be exemption from labor. In consequence of this, the market is flooded with clerks, doctors, clergymen, lawyers, and teachers. In the four former cases, the evil works its own remedy, the incompetent surpluses being disposed of by that beneficent law, "the non-survival of the unfittest." But in the case of teachers, there exists a class of people interested in promoting the survival of incompetent teachers, in order to cheapen and underrule the competent. But the position of "the cheap teacher" is not a pleasant one. It will cease to exist as soon as the good sense of the community awakes to the need of abolishing the condition of things which overcrowds the teaching profession with inferior members.

But with really good teachers, the profession is far from being overcrowded, and any young man or woman who has the true vocation for teaching, now, more than at any former time in the history of this country, may count on an assured future of usefulness and honour. Never before has public interest so turned to the subject of education. Both the pecuniary rewards and the social position are rising, and are sure to rise further still.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

The Minister of Education has laid before the Ontario Legislature his special report on Upper Canada College, which certainly shows that the College has done good work in supplying the University of Toronto with a large number of matriculated students ever since 1840. But, as the report goes on to state, "since the great educational improvement in the work of the High Schools, recently effected by the Entrance and Intermediate Examinations, and half-yearly inspection, and the increase in their financial resources, the college is surrounded

"by numerous energetic and worthy competitors for scholastic honors," that is to say, the College now no longer stands alone, but is met on its own ground by the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes of the Province. Under these circumstances we are not surprised that the Minister proposes certain changes in the management of the College, the most important of which are inspection by the Department, and extension of the Exhibition Regulations, so as to be more generally beneficial to pupils from all parts of the Province. Whether the instalment of reform in the management of Upper Canada College will finally satisfy public opinion in the Province is a question which our High School friends will probably press on the Department's serious consideration.

—In an excellent paper read at the "Woman's Literary Club," by Mrs. K. S. MacLean, of Kingston, the remark is made that in the States it almost always seems the first ambition of the teacher to make the scholar realize his future duties as the citizen of a great Republic. Ethical and social teaching should certainly form a part of the public school course, and on no subject could this be given with more certainty of practical benefit than that of Temperance. In England we are glad to see that efforts in this direction are not relaxed. At the last quarterly meeting of the National Union of Elementary Teachers at Norwich, Mr. J. H. Tench read an excellent paper on Temperance, and proposed a resolution in favor of total abstinence as a basis of temperance ethics in the schools, which was carried with but one dissentient.

—MR. NATHANIEL GORDON has been appointed Inspector of the newly-organized County of Dufferin. Mr. Gordon has been for nine years principal of the Picton Public Schools, and has had charge of the County Model School in that town since its establishment. He taught twenty-one years in Prince Edward County, rising gradually from the ranks to the best school in the county. He could have received no better training for the position of Inspector. He has always been an earnest and energetic teacher, who worked hard himself, and succeeded in inspiring in his pupils a love for independent work. His past success gives every reason to hope that he will do much good for the cause of education in Dufferin.

—It is a gratifying fact that, while a large number of members during the last session of Parliament spoke in favor of curtailing the powers of Public School Inspectors, only one weakly note of complaint has been sounded during the present session. Mr. Ross, of Huron, deserves the gratitude of the profession for the manly way in which he defended the Inspectors, as well as for the intelligent interest he takes in education generally. The educational somnambulist from East Grey should remember that progressive institutions are not to be discredited or overthrown by Rip Van Winkle's "solid vote."

—The death is announced of the venerable Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, the celebrated mathematician and mag-