

magazines which treat those subjects much more fully than we can hope to do. The other class think this far from true of the average public school teacher, whose wants and tastes it is the special aim of the JOURNAL to meet. We have, possibly, better means than either of knowing what is the truth in regard to the great majority and with all respect to the opinion of others, must govern ourselves accordingly. And so in regard to other points, if indeed there be any other to which our friends have called attention in particular.

Speaking generally we may say that what the JOURNAL has been in the past that it will be in the future, with the addition of all the improvements we can make. Our aim has been from the first to make the paper intensely practical. We want it to contain just that which the average public school teacher needs to help him in his daily work. Our conviction of the importance of this has grown upon us from week to week. It shall be our constant aim to admit nothing which is not adapted, in our judgment, to be useful to the working teacher, whether by way of helping to enlarge and broaden his views, to increase his professional knowledge, to intensify his earnestness, or to afford him encouragement, suggestion, and direction in his daily work. And, as we have so often said, we need the help of the true teacher. We invite his co-operation. If teachers would but come forward and use our columns more freely for mutual help and benefit, the usefulness of the JOURNAL for the coming year would be more effectively promoted than in any other way, and none, probably, would derive more profit than our contributors themselves.

Let us one and all, teachers, contributors, and editors, enter upon the new year with a fixed determination, by God's blessing, to make it a more useful and well spent year than any that has gone before.

ELECTION OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

So far as we have observed not many of the Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education in the Province are this year taking advantage of the clause in the Consolidated School Act which empowers them to have the election of members of their respective boards take place at the same time and in the same manner as the municipal elections. The motion to give the required notice in the Toronto Board was lost by a small majority. Consequently here as in the greater number of the municipalities the nomination and election of trustees will take place this year under the old system. It is certainly highly desirable that more interest should be taken in the selection and election of school trustees. Were the magnitude of the issues involved rightly understood these elections would rank at least equal in importance with those of aldermen and councillors. The effects of combining liberal expenditure with wise economy are at least as closely related to the public well-being, and more far-reaching in the case of the former than in that of the latter.

The adoption of the ballot would probably, under the circumstances, be beneficial. Most of the arguments in its favor, in regard to general and municipal elections, apply with

equal force to the election of trustees. In both cases the open vote seems, it is true, the more independent and manly way of recording one's choice. But so long as it is notorious that the wish to gain personal favor, or the fear of giving personal offence operates with very many in both cases to prevent a free expression of opinion, it seems much wiser to choose the lesser evil and leave in the way of the timid or careless voter the fewest possible inducements to be influenced by anything but his view of the merits of the respective candidates.

The policy of holding the trustee elections on the same day as the municipal is more open to serious objection. It is, unfortunately, too true that party and other influences, many of them not merely selfish but even degrading, enter into the municipal elections. It would be manifestly difficult if not impossible to have the trustee elections conducted at the same time and place without danger of subjecting them in a greater or less degree to the same untoward influences. But surely the work of public education, if anything, should be kept as far as possible removed from all sinister influences. It should be elevated far above either municipal or political partyism.

Then, again, it is questionable whether the very fact of holding the trustee elections on the same day as the municipal would not of itself have a tendency to belittle the former. In the minds of nine-tenths of the voters the Mayor, Alderman, and Councillor question would be the all-absorbing one. The voting for trustees would be tacitly regarded as a mere appendage, a secondary and subordinate matter. Most of us are so constituted that we cannot be equally in earnest about two questions at the same time. Much less can we, while the heat of a municipal contest is in full blast, throw aside in a moment all warmth of feeling and come coolly and dispassionately to vote for educational officers simply on their merits.

We have no wish, however, to dogmatize or to take too strong ground on such a question. Since the provision is in the statute books and a number of municipalities have adopted it, it is probably better to wait and see how it works. Experiment is often the best test of such a scheme. At the same time we cannot conceal our impression that the election of school trustees is a matter of such dignity and importance as to warrant its having its own special day in the municipal calendar, and that the prospects of working up a legitimate interest in it will be on the whole more hopeful where it has such a day than where it is merely tacked on as a tail-piece to the municipal elections.

"Do you enjoy good health?" asked Cross. "Why, yes, of course, who doesn't?" replied Ross tersely.

"Little boy, do you understand what is meant by energy and enterprise?" "No pa, I don't think I do." "Well, I will tell you. One of the richest men came here without a shirt to his back, and now he has got millions." "Millions! how many does he put on at a time, pa?"

"Some idiot has put that pen where I can't find it?" growled old Asperity the other day, as he rooted about the desk. "Ah, um, yes! I thought so," he continued in a lower key, as he hauled the article from behind his ear.

A rural gentleman, standing over a register in a city store, attracted some attention to himself by observing to his wife, "Marian, I guess I'm goin' to have a fever; I feel such hot airs a-running up my legs."