

to teach. The Cardinal insists that the teaching orders should add to the "moral and personal advantage" possessed by their members, "the best intellectual training, the best method and skill in the art of pedagogy—the best, that is, according to approved national standards. This will necessitate submission to the common test—a public examination—for a diploma of recognized value."

How any reasonable being can object to the Cardinal's proposition is beyond comprehension. People who set up to be teachers are either fitted for their work, or they are not. A diploma will attest—at least in the majority of cases—their fitness, both theoretical and practical. If they are unfit for teaching, the sooner they are got rid of, the better. Why should we tolerate bungling, incompetent school teachers any more than bungling, incompetent carpenters, shoemakers or blacksmiths? The *Ave Maria* is right when it says that if Cardinal Vaughan's plan proves successful, "it will be set down in history as the most important act of his episcopate."



### THE PEN.

With the above title, and the motto, "The pen is mightier than the sword," J. K. Foran, Lit. D. has begun the publication of a new "literary, historical and critical review." The initial number carries out the promise of the prospectus,

and gives reason to believe that a new power has entered into the field of Canadian journalism. Since Dr. Foran resigned the editorship of the *True Witness*, his pen has apparently been relatively idle, and the result has been a distinct loss to our young literature, for Dr. Foran has a wide acquaintance with literature, is correct in his taste, and sure in his principles, and writes in a lively and graceful style.

Dr. Foran states clearly and frankly the reasons that called *The Pen* into existence. We give two of them in his own words :

"Firstly: he wished to make use of his pen—the only implement that he can pretend to wield—and journalism—the only sphere in which he feels at home—for the not unworthy purpose of earning an honest livelihood, meeting all his obligations, and securing his own future and that of his family. Not finding a suitable opening, or rather being cut off from the desired opportunities, possibly by the fact that more able, more learned, and more competent editors were to be found in numbers, he determined to carve his own way to success, and in doing so to be independent of all external influences.

Secondly: for almost twenty years the Editor has contributed, in one way or another, to the growing literature of Canada. Much of his work has appeared in magazines, newspapers, or in book-form; but the greater portion of his writing