

THE CANADA

EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

MARCH, 1885.

EXTRACTS FROM AN ADDRESS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS.

BY REV. SEPTIMUS JONES, M.A.

WE pride ourselves, and not without cause, upon our system of Public School Education. That it is perfect and capable of being in any way altered for the better, is what even its greatest admirers will scarcely venture to assert.

I am not sure but that our danger lies somewhat in the other direction. Those who have in their hands the moulding and guiding of our educational system, etc., either politicians or the servants of politicians, bound to signalize in some way the glory of their administration, are very apt to mount educational hobbies, and to be caught by new ideas and to be led to make experiments.

Almost any system of tolerable merit, steadily adhered to, is incomparably better than a quick succession of changes, which, however excellent in themselves, are costly and perplexing to the public and distracting to the teacher.

And I would here record with patriotic pride that, as a people, we

Canadians seem to be born educationists; so that from the Minister of Education himself down to the most ignorant School Trustee who cannot spell his own official title with correctness, we all feel fully competent to deal with this great question.

I know of no subject under the sun (unless we except the matter of preaching) upon which men and women not apparently qualified by any special knowledge, training or experience, can deliver themselves with so much authority, or in which they will intermeddle with so much confidence, or wherein they will so complacently undertake to direct others how to do what they are utterly incapable of doing themselves as this same matter of education.

But I will endeavour to refrain my lips and to confine my remarks as strictly as possible to such topics as would seem to be of direct and practical interest to yourselves.

I cannot resist the temptation, how-