

advised me to choose that subject. This indeed applies to the work of life generally.

I am sometimes disposed to think that the great readers of the next generation will be, not our lawyers and doctors, shopkeepers and manufacturers, but the labourer and mechanic. Does not this seem natural? The former work mainly with their head; when their daily duties are over the brain is often exhausted, and of their leisure time much must be devoted to air and exercise. The labourer or mechanic, on the contrary, besides working often for much shorter hours, have in their work-time taken sufficient bodily exercise, and could therefore give any leisure they might have to reading and study. They have not done so as yet, it is true; but

this has been for obvious reasons. Now, however, in the first place, they receive an excellent education in elementary schools, and have more easy access to the best books.

Ruskin has observed he does not wonder at what men suffer, but he often wonders at what they lose. We suffer much, no doubt, from the faults of others, but we lose much more by our own.

It is one thing, however, to own a library; it is another to use it wisely. Every one of us may say with Proctor:—

All round the room my silent servants wait,
My friends in every season, bright and dim,
Angels and seraphim
Come down and murmur to me, sweet and low
And spirits of the skies all come and go
Early and late.

—*Contemporary Review.*

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCE A PROFESSION.*

BY HON. M. A. NEWELL.

THE title must be taken as a prediction, not as an assertion. School superintendence is not a profession in *esse*, but only in *posse*.

School superintendence may be divided into two classes, active and honorary. I confine my remarks to the first class, the active members. The honorary members have their position established; their professional character is fully acknowledged; they are professional politicians. I speak not of them, though they have their uses as collectors of statistics or as ornamental appendages, but of those superintendents who devote themselves to the work of visiting, regulating and improving the common schools. Men of the kind I

refer to are known to our English and Canadian cousins as school inspectors—men who look *into* the schools, and are not mere *on*-lookers or over-lookers. There are enough of such men, I believe, to constitute a distinct profession, as large in numbers and as honourable in rank as the profession of law or of medicine.

It is not necessary here to say that school superintendence is not now a profession, nor to state the reasons why it is not. It is sufficient to state that the organization of labour, either of the physical or of the intellectual kind, is an institution of very slow growth. We have not to go far back to find a time when no diploma was needed to authorize a blacksmith or a barber to set a broken limb or extract a decaying tooth. Indeed, dentistry as a *quasi* profession had its birth in this

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