

Rev. E. H. Jenkyns, M. A., Co. of Renfrew, says:—

We desire to see a number of earnest and well-trained teachers employed throughout the County. If any person in the present day were to set himself up as a medical practitioner, without any knowledge of the profession, his pretensions would be simply laughed at. But it is strange that persons do not reason in a similar manner, with regard to a subject of such overwhelming importance as education! The Trustees to whom we have already alluded, who go forth in quest of "cheap teachers," find as the result that they have generally succeeded in securing the services of persons, who can only make a pretence of teaching what they cannot teach, because they do not possess the necessary qualifications, and have never received the necessary instructions in the art of teaching. We repeat it again, the great want of our County is the appointment of earnest and trained teachers. I have noticed that very beneficial results have been obtained, not only to the section immediately interested, but also to surrounding sections, by the appointment of earnest and trained teachers from the Normal School. In many instances pupils from schools taught by such teachers have been qualified to act as teachers with considerable success; and teachers from other Sections, who have not received the advantage of Normal School training, acquire experience in the work, and practical views with regard to teaching by occasionally visiting such Schools. The reason why Normal School teachers are so successful in their work is to be accounted for by the fact that they have made education a distinct profession. They have prepared themselves for the work, and have received proper training.

Jno. Johnston Esq., County of Hastings, says:—

I am sorry to say that, with few exceptions, most of the teachers do not know anything about teaching, as the great majority of them never went to a good School, or ever saw a School taught properly.

J. H. Smith, Esq., County of Wentworth, says:—

Of the methods of teaching, I may remark, that they are in too many cases sadly

defective, being too mechanical, and not calculated to draw out and train the mind, but rather to pursue a course of cramming, and a loading of the memory with facts, irrespective of the pupil's ability to use them. The great object being, in not a few cases, to push the pupil through as many books as possible, in a given time, without any regard to the mental training they are to receive.

J. B. Somerset Esq., Lincoln County, says:—

The mode of teaching practiced in the Schools was, with some very marked exceptions, merely a mechanical process of cramming knowledge into the pupils' minds, without regard to the development of their reasoning powers. The exceptions to this system were almost invariably Schools conducted by teachers who had received a training for the profession; and this, I feel assured, is the great remedy for unskillful teaching so prevalent in our Schools, for even visiting each other fails in effect when all are untrained.

J. C. Glashan Esq., Middlesex West, says: "The great lack (among teachers) is *training*, and this teachers themselves are beginning to recognise."

The foregoing quotations are sufficient to show that there is an evident necessity for a better supply of trained teachers in the country. The establishment of additional Normal Schools will, we trust, meet to a certain extent this deficiency. But yet something further *must* be done, if the tone of education is to keep pace with the requirements of the age. In justice, however, to many men of talent, at present engaged in the profession, we must say that *training* even does not make every man a successful teacher. There are many, possessed of natural adaptation, who have been very successful without any special preparation for the work. But it is not to be denied that what they have been able to do by experience, they would have done much better had they been specially trained. Experience is certainly a good master, but keeps a very expensive school.