

THE CANADA  
EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY  
AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

FEBRUARY, 1888.

THE EAR AND EYE IN MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHING.\*

BY W. H. FRASER, B.A., UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

[Special revision.]

SOME time ago I made the acquaintance of a teacher in a German gymnasium, an accomplished linguist who had travelled much abroad. This gentleman related to me that, on one occasion his father, a gymnasial teacher of French, accompanied him to Paris. The veteran teacher was filled with bright anticipations of the treat he was about to enjoy in seeing at last on the stage the masterpieces of the French drama, which he had been engaged in expounding to his classes year in and year out for thirty years. The two went together to a representation of *Le Cid* at the *Théâtre Français*, and the son described to me, with considerable merriment, the astonishment, disappointment and anger of his father, when it began to dawn upon him that the whole affair was pantomime, as far as he was concerned, for he could hardly distinguish a single word.

Here is another instance of an op-

posite character. Some weeks since I met at the University College Modern Language Club one of our undergraduates, trained in an Ontario Collegiate Institute. It was the occasion of a meeting for German, and I had the pleasure of conversing with the young man at considerable length in that language. Not only did he understand readily all that was addressed to him, but he replied with facility. I was astonished to learn that he had been studying the language only two years, and that he had had no opportunity of hearing it, apart from the instruction received at school.

It is far from my purpose in giving these examples to contrast our Collegiate Institutes and High Schools with the German Gymnasias to our own advantage, for, as a matter of fact, I am sure we have still very much to learn from the experience and intelligence of our European brethren of the profession. The cases cited may be somewhat extreme, and yet they are alike typical

\* A paper read before the Modern Language Association of Ontario, 29th December, 1887.