

he calls upon the people of Ontario, in view of the "heavy requisitions on the intellect of this very much-governed country," to give that liberal aid to the endowment of a Provincial university "necessary to the establishment of a national seat of learning, and which will give the fullest scope to Canadian talent."

Before coming to the defects referred to in our Public School system, the reviewer pays a merited compliment to the schoolmasters of Ontario, who, he affirms, "are, as a rule, a superior class of men." "Yet it must be admitted," he wisely adds, "that much can still be done to improve their position. Education, we all know," he goes on to say, "does not necessarily bring with it refinement; that can only come by constant communication with a cultured society, which is not always in Canada ready to admit the teacher on equal terms. It may also be urged that the teacher, under the system as now perfected, is far too much an automaton—a mere machine, wound up to proceed so far and no farther. He is not allowed sufficient of that free volition which would enable him to develop the best qualities of his pupils, and to elevate their general tone." How true are these remarks, most of our readers will bear witness, and they naturally find corroboration in words of our own (quoted by Mr. Bourinot) which appeared in THE MONTHLY for February, 1879, in dealing with the "Promotion of Culture in Canada" and the desirability of allowing greater play to the individuality of the teacher in the exercise of his vocation.

Coming now to the defects of our school system, Mr. Bourinot quotes the remarks of a writer in *Scribner's Monthly*, "as of some application to ourselves," and which thus satirizes the cramming and examination craze of the time. The writer says, that now-a-days there is "too decided an aim to train everybody to pass an examination in everything," that the present system "encourages two virtues—to forgive and forget—in time to forgive the examiner, and to forget the subject of the examination." This inevitable, and we might also say invariable, result of

"cramming" has rarely been better hit off. With equal point, Mr. Bourinot, himself, touches on another foible of our Ontario educational administration, which has been repeatedly gibbeted in our own columns, viz., "the somewhat remarkable multiplication of text books, many of which are carelessly got up, simply to gratify the vanity and fill the purse of some educationist anxious to get into print." Grammar, the essayist also refers to, as a lost art in the Public Schools, where, in place of the homely, intelligible language of Lennie, and other old-time favourites, pupils are bewildered by the complex, analytical methods of modern teaching, which he hopes those educational parliaments—Teachers' Associations—will help to get rid of. Our space, we regret, forbids us to make further reference to the excellent paper Mr. Bourinot has given us, and we must content ourselves with expressing pleasure at learning that the author purposes compiling for separate publication the articles contributed to the *Canadian Monthly* on the general subject embraced in the title we have already quoted, and that the book may soon be expected to be in the hands of all interested in the intellectual development of the Canadian people.

THE following cutting we make from a recent number of the *New England Journal of Education*, and we ask our contemporary what fiend has tempted it to poke such fun at our educational authorities? The happy, the exhilarating, effects of our Central Committee, have certainly been the theme of comment in Ontario, but hardly of congratulation. Our contemporary's notions of the *personnel* of the Committee are about as far astray as its notions of what they have accomplished, and the wisdom of their appointment has very far from been "amply vindicated." When we get "a few able men," and honest ones, to represent the interests of education here, the good friends of New England may learn what salutary lessons are to be derived from the spectacle of their employment amongst us; till then "the spiritual side of American life," as well as, unhap-