

is to be hoped. To the unsatisfactory status of the teacher may, perhaps, be, in part, assigned the unpopularity of the profession indicated by the unhappily short tenure of the teacherships, which cannot fail to tell on the character of the education.

Any fear that a minister would not be able to act with an advisory council is at once dispelled by the fact that in England the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Minister for India do act with advisory councils, as, practically, if not formally, does the Vice-President of the Privy Council, who fills the place of a Minister of Education.

I would venture to suggest that there should be an advisory council, composed of representatives of the chartered Universities, the Agricultural College, the High Schools and the Public Schools, with, perhaps, one or two additional members nominated, we will say, by the Lieutenant-Governor personally, and with

out reference to his political advisers.

This council might be convened annually, before the meeting of the Legislature, for the discussion of any proposed legislation. I would assign to it absolutely the regulation of the text-books, thus placing that subject beyond the range alike of sectional feeling and commercial interest. I would require that it should review the curriculum, and be notified of proposed changes therein. I would empower it to call for information on any subject connected with the department, including appointments and dismissals, and to record its opinion thereon. There would be nothing in this, I think, to interfere with the legitimate authority and parliamentary action of the Minister of Education, in whose hands, besides his general control, all the financial arrangements would be left.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

Toronto, August 28th, 1899.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Scribner's Magazine for September contains a long article on the country that lies about the sources of the Ottawa, by Mr. Frederic Irland, called "Where the Water Runs Both Ways." Canada is that convenient country where many of the citizens of the United States keep their imagination and let it run occasionally for a cool and romantic airing. The present article is most interesting and kindly. In the *Chronicles of Aunt Minerey Ann*, the story given this month is "How Jess Went a Fiddlin'." In it Mr. Harris excels himself in witty and delightful sayings. There are so many good things in the number that all cannot be mentioned particularly, but "The Education of Praed" is a capi-

tal short story, and "A Slumber Song" by Henry Van Dyke, is as sweet a bit of verse as one could wish to read.

Byam Shaw's "Love, the Conqueror," is the frontispiece in the September number of the *Cosmopolitan*. The magazine contains contributions by many well known writers, such as "A Life" by Maarten Maartens; "Eternal Me" by Mrs. Stetson, and the "Study of Fiction" by Brander Matthews. There are three interesting short stories and a number of articles on popular subjects. Among these "The Delightful Art of Cooking" by Anna Leach, should be mentioned as possessing both sense and inspiration.