

# The Canada School Journal.

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL HAS RECEIVED

An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1878.

Recommended by the Minister of Education for Ontario.

Recommended by the Council of Public Instruction, Quebec.

Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, New Brunswick.

Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia.

Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, British Columbia.

Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Manitoba.

The Publishers frequently receive letters from their friends complaining of the non-receipt of the JOURNAL. In explanation they would state, as subscriptions are necessarily payable in advance, the mailing clerks have instructions to discontinue the paper when a subscription expires. The clerks are, of course unable to make any distinction in a list containing names from all parts of the United States and Canada.

## TO OUR READERS.

In accordance with the custom now almost universally adopted by the publishers of educational journals in England and the United States, we propose to dispense altogether this year with the usual August number of the SCHOOL JOURNAL. With this arrangement, we feel sure, our readers will find no fault, more especially as we give them a double number for July. Teachers are naturally disposed to pay as little attention as possible to professional matters during the summer vacation, and we propose this year to assist them in their endeavour to forget for a little while that there are such things as schools, conventions, and text-books.

## REMUNERATION OF COLLEGE PROFESSORS.

One of the difficulties in connection with collegiate management, and especially in connection with endowed institutions, is the difficulty of keeping the teaching abreast of the age. It is very apt to fall behind either in the subject matter of the prelections or in the methods of the lecturer. While some members of a college staff may be doing their utmost and doing good work, other members of it may be indolent, or incompetent, or both. There is no supervision over their work and in the nature of things there cannot be any. Each is a law unto himself and if he fails he must be left to be dealt with by the slow operation of public opinion which is never well informed of what goes on within academic walls.

One way of bringing pressure to bear on inefficient teachers and of applying the spur to indolent ones would be the general adoption of the practice of paying each professor in a college a certain fixed sum and supplementing this with all the fees paid by those who take his classes. The students are

excellent judges of the merits of a lecturer and if a member of the staff were to fail in securing a favourable opinion his income would suffer accordingly. In every college there are certain options allowed and the student can therefore shape his course a good deal according to his inclinations.

We are not in a position to say how the professors generally are paid in Dalhousie College but we notice that in the case of Dr. Schurman, recently appointed to a chair in that institution, he is allowed a fixed salary of \$2,000 a year, with class fees additional. If this is the system adopted in Dalhousie generally the management have set an example which ought to be generally followed.

## PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Minister of Education has this year taken the important step of giving to Pickering College, a purely private school, the right to hold within its walls the ordinary high school entrance and intermediate examinations. It was only to be expected that a new departure of this kind would evoke some hostile criticism, but we feel confident that in the long run public opinion will abundantly endorse the action taken by Mr. Crooks. We would go further and express our earnest hope that other private schools and colleges will follow the example set them by the management of Pickering College and apply for the same privilege.

The apprehensions felt by those connected with the provincial high schools lest this recognition by the Department of the work done by private schools should affect public institutions injuriously, found expression at the teachers' convention held recently at Uxbridge, where a resolution was unanimously adopted disapproving of the Minister's action. That resolution states (1) that what has been done "is a departure from the spirit of our educational system and the manner in which it has hitherto been interpreted," and (2) that it is likely to lead to great abuses, to injure the reputation and finances of the national schools, and "to introduce into our school system other questions than education." It is difficult to gather from this resolution the precise nature of the evils apprehended. That the departure is a new one is not a sufficient ground on which to condemn it, for all progress is the result of new departures. Abuses in connection with these examinations come to light from time to time when they are held in high school buildings, and the Minister will of course have precisely the same kind of control over them in private schools as he has in public schools. Whether the examination will be kept free from abuses or not depends almost entirely on the presiding examiner, and as the building in which the examination is held is a mere incident of the situation, the fear of abuses must be considered as without sufficient grounds to justify it.

It is easy to understand why an enterprising principal of a private school should want to have the departmental papers