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THE TIMES.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent, "Nihil Verius," I have only to say, that I cannot deal further with his allegations while he remains anonymous. Your readers will see the reason for this, when I point out the possibility that such attacks as his may be written, or, as the French say, "inspired" by interested persons. If your correspondent continues to withhold his name, I shall believe that he does so because he knows that the publication of it would discredit his statements by revealing their motive.

J. Frederick Stevenson, Chairman P. B. S. C.

SIR,—I refrained from comment on the article which appeared in your issue of October 16th, with reference to certain High School appointments, for two reasons; the one being that a reply would come more suitably from the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners; the other, because I might, while answering the aforesaid article, appear in the light of one gratuitously taking up weapons in defence of his own University. But inasmuch as "Nihil Verius" has entered the lists once more, I feel constrained to break a lance with him and make a few remarks on his article, No. 2.

I cannot compliment him on his power of reasoning, or his knowledge of the subject with which he pretends to deal. Both are conspicuous by their absence, while the taste of his article is on a level with its grammar, both being eminently bad.

"Nihil Verius" says: "I hope that very few will deny that, other qualifications being equal, the preference should be given to a Canadian graduate." I beg leave to think that many will hold exactly the opposite view. In the first place, entire equality in intellectual qualifications among candidates for educational appointments is one of the rarest of phenomena. Again, something besides book-learning is required in a teacher, knowledge of the world in a good sense, geniality of temperament, sympathy with the young, a high estimate of education as a calling, should, (apart from good moral principle, an essential requisite in all) be taken into account; and these might be found more readily among University men from the old country, than among Canadian graduates. This is entirely distinct from any mere arrogant assumption that Oxford metal is always pure gold, and Canadian currency dross.

I have been a graduate for twenty-eight years, and can unhesitatingly assert that, with all my natural partiality for my own ancient university, I never estimated any man's educational or social merits from the circumstance of his having been trained at either Eton or Oxford. The former great school is not specially remarkable for its intellectual standard, and there are idle and shallow men at Oxford as elsewhere. But, after Dr. Stevenson's letter, even to hint that Canadians have not received or may not receive fair play from the Board of Commissioners is simply impertinence. This anonymous detractor, as he justly calls himself, wonders forsooth that the Oxford nominees do not speak for themselves. Has "Nihil Verius" ever been on friendly terms with a gen-

tleman? If so, he must have forgotten that gentlemen are not in the habit of blowing their own trumpets, or of replying to anonymous aspersions. Then Dr. Stevenson, in return for that refined courtesy which is one of his characteristics, receives from "Nihil Verius" the flattest of contradictions. Passing by the little story of Oswald, Heinrich & Co., which is sandwiched into the middle of the reflections on the Board and on two of its nominees, I would observe that one of these gentlemen has been for so short a time in our employ that to pass a definitive judgment on his results would be premature, while to anticipate judgment and assume that he has failed is as unwise as it is ungenerous.

As regards the other, his power of imparting knowledge to those who chose to learn was and is as great as that knowledge itself, while his departure being the outcome of his own wish, no one has the faintest right to pronounce on its causes, and least of all, in the public press.

And, let us look at the composition of this anonymous scribbler, who, with contemptible cowardice, endeavours to prejudice the prospects of two gentlemen evidently far his superior in mental attainments, who is morally, if not technically guilty of libel, and who dares to insinuate of the able and hard-working Chairman of the Board, that he neglects his duties, and is either wilfully ignorant of facts known to the more transcendental mind of "Nihil Verius," or that he is deliberately deceived by his subordinates. whoever these may be. We find this enlightened critic informing us that an evasion is a contradiction; that a feeling pervades in Canada, that these—i.e., the aforesaid evasions or contradictions (for such is the logical interpretation) are facts; that if the unfortunate Chairman does not know that these (I suppose the writer means his own assumption) are facts, he ought to (sic) and that such officials should take the necessary trouble on the part of themselves (sic).

We may well say, "Nihil Verius, tutor ultra crepidam." Let "Nihil Verius" return into well-deserved obscurity. But previously he has three duties to perform. 1st. To give his name to the public, and not shelter his pusillanimity behind a pseudonym rather than a nom de plume. 2nd. To tender his apologies to Dr. Stevenson. 3rd. To ask the pardon of the two gentlemen whom he has attacked, and whose future he has striven to damage. I should then counsel him to abstain from rushing into print until he has learnt something of the art of reasoning, that conclusions must have premisses, and till he has at all events attained some mastery over the English language. May we, till that time comes, in the interim bid him farewell!

Yours faithfully,

R. W. Norman, M.A., D.C.L.,

School Commissioner.

If "Nihil Verius" survive the gentle hints of the Dr. and the sledge-hammer blows of the Canon, he is a man to be envied. But it does seem to me that both gentlemen dwell overmuch on the anonymity of the writer. If they will take up newspaper work for a short time they will find that men are compelled to hide their personality behind a pseudonym. They would lose business, or position or something if they ventured upon a criticism over their own proper name. I can speak feelingly on this point, for—well—I won't tell the story yet.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit the correction of some errors which have crept into two of your editorial paragraphs in last week's issue. First you affirm that on the occasion of a discussion at the Union Meeting Toronto, of "what constitutes a regular Baptist Church," the Rev. Mr. Brookman was denied a hearing." This statement is misleading. A point of order was raised, as to whether Mr. Brookman was discussing the question before the meeting; this point was decided in the negative. Some however expressed a desire that Mr. Brookman be allowed an expression of his views on a point on which there was danger of his being misapprehended. On motion of the writer this was cordially granted him.

Second, you affirm that "the Rev. Mr. McLaurin told the meeting to its horror, that he did not believe that total immersion was necessary to salvation." Now Mr. Editor, Mr. McLaurin, as a matter of fact, made no such statement, nor was there any call for such an assertion. I venture however to affirm that no Canadian Baptist would feel any sense of horror had the statement been made—Yea, further, there was not a Baptist at the Union Meetings but could applaud such a sentiment. One of the distinctive principles of a Baptist