

and in extending the taste for pure literature.

The task the Canada Publishing Co. set itself has now been completed, and in the the "Royal Canadian Readers," the series we briefly referred to last month, the educationists of the Province will find a set of text books of inestimable value to the profession and of the first importance to the youth of the country. In our advertising pages it will be seen how the series is being received both by individual teachers who have examined its various volumes, and by gatherings of the profession at recent Conventions, where committees have reported upon the books. The series has been described as the manifest product of men of cultivated and disciplined intellect, in whom the practical has been the guiding motive, and whose acquaintance with Canadian schools and knowledge of the wants of pupil and teacher, are intimate and extensive. The Department, we judge, will be unreasonably sanguine, and we venture to think will be grievously disappointed, if it look elsewhere for a set of Reading Books more carefully planned, or more intelligently and successfully adapted than this, for use in the schools of the Province. From all sides comes the cry for one set, instead of a plurality, of new authorized readers; and there will be a wide gulf between the attitude of the Department on this question and the reasonable demands of the profession if regard is not had to this wise and politic preference. The argument for but *one* set of Readers, on the score of economy, and in the interest of morals, as well as of the schools, in facilitating examinations, etc., is so obvious that it needs scarcely to be dwelt upon. How vitally important, then, is it that the series to be adopted for general use throughout the Province should, as far as possible, possess not only every merit that can distinguish a series of Reading Books in these modern days, but that, professionally, it should be to the teacher a mine of instruction and guidance in all that is required of him in imparting a thorough Elementary English Education. An examination of the "Royal Canadian Readers" will prove how satisfactorily they meet this want.

#### A NONDESCRIPT SERIES.

If Euclid had refused to communicate his ideas upon Geometry, and Arabic scholars had kept their hands from Algebraic thimble-rigging with the alphabet, the teaching of English in the Province might now have been in a *less backward condition*, and we might sooner have had a really good set of school Reading Books. From an article in another column the profession will learn however, that a series of Readers of the highest merit has at last appeared, to remove the discredit from Education in Ontario of being behind other communities in the possession of Reading Books that shall first be good as literature and then good in their teaching power. The demand, in the present case, has brought forth what was wanted, and authorization of the series we refer to cannot, we imagine, be long delayed. Another house last year rushed hotly into the field with an Old World series for which it thought, by the simple process of relabelling, to secure a monopoly of the market. On the appearance of that series, we had something to say of its utter unsuitableness for use in Canadian Schools. Since then, though the books have been subjected to some doctoring, and though all the powers of good and evil have been going to and fro in the land soliciting endorsement of the series, the profession naturally shrink from seeking authorization for it, while in matter and form it is so little of an improvement upon the present series, shortly to be discarded. Should this series find any favour, it must be with those who have grown tolerant of dreary mediocrity, and whose love for respectable platitude dulls their sense of fitness of matter, and blinds the critical eye to the proprieties of grammar and the niceties of literary form. In regard to matter, the selection of the lessons is notoriously bad; at least four-fifths of the whole series is foreign in interest to Canadian youth, and much is of that nondescript kind, which is neither fish nor fowl, nor good red herring. In proof of this, we might instance the lessons on Natural History in the Fourth Book, which abound in errors and foolish statements, while the literary form is such as