

stands is a good one, and, when well administered, shows excellent results. Even when defects manifest themselves it is not well to be for ever trying to remedy them by new statutory enactments. Any attempt to readjust one part of so complicated a machine as our educational system is apt to throw some other part out of gear, and, for this reason, it is to be hoped that no change, however apparently unimportant, will hereafter be made in the school law without the proposal having been allowed to stand over for a year after it is first made in the Legislature. It is of the utmost consequence that the masses should be acquainted with the school law, and it is quite impossible to be familiar with the provisions of a statute that is from year to year changing its form. One source of the trouble is that each member of the Assembly feels himself quite competent to amend the school law, with the working of which he is so familiar, and, as all are naturally desirous of accomplishing something, the result is a kind of dead set on the system. That some improvements have resulted from this go-as-you-please method in the past is not to be denied, but it seems to be time for the Government to call a halt in the matter of amateur legislation, and declare that well enough must for a while be let alone.

#### DR. McLELLAN AND TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

In spite of the arduous nature of his duties as high school inspector, member of the Central Committee, and Director of the Provincial Normal Schools, our readers will notice that Dr. McLellan finds time to appear frequently at teachers' institutes, and the following communication will show how his services are appreciated. We need hardly say that many other tributes, equally cordial, have come under our notice:—

Mr. EDITOR—

I hope that you may allow me a small space in your journal to make a few statements in reference to the above. The immense practical benefits resulting from properly conducted institutes are recognized by the Department, and liberal grants are made by it towards promoting their efficiency. This I consider a wise provision, as the teachers are thus materially assisted in procuring the services of some of our leading educational workers. The last meeting of the West Bruce Teachers' Association, held in Kincardine a short time ago, was admitted by all to be the most enjoyable and instructive one since its organization. Dr. McLellan, High School Inspector, was present and delighted the teachers with his lectures on important subjects taught in our schools.

The energy and enthusiasm which he not only manifests himself but arouses in the teachers; his qualifications both as a teacher and as a scholar; the thoroughly systematic and intellectual manner in which he presents the subjects with which he is dealing; and his evident sympathy with the teachers in their noble work, fit him in a very marked degree to elevate Teachers' Institutes to something like their true position, and make them the means of disseminating true methods of teaching, and of imparting what may be called the higher knowledge of the science of education. He never fails to impress the solemn responsibility of moulding character and of shaping in no small degree the destiny of both the people and the country. I firmly believe Sir, that it is the earnest prayer of all who have the welfare of this young Province of ours at heart, that Dr. McLellan may long be spared to assist in perfecting that system of education which is the pride of our country, and with which his name is so closely connected.

Yours,  
TEACHER.

Kincardine, Nov. 9th, 1882.

#### HONOR TO A CANADIAN.

We have much pleasure in clipping from the *Toronto Globe* the following paragraph:

At the present day perhaps no other branch of scientific study is pursued with greater vigour than is that of mathematics, nor is there any in which the labours of investigators are rewarded by results of greater interest and utility. On this continent the study of the higher mathematics has lately received fresh impetus by the publication, under the auspices of Johns Hopkins University, of a large quarterly called the *American Journal of Mathematics*. This journal is edited by Dr. Sylvester, one of the ablest of living mathematicians, and in it are published original investigations in pure and applied mathematics. Numbering, as it does, on its list of contributors many names of world wide fame, this periodical may be regarded as the exponent of the best that modern talent is producing in this important branch of science, and therefore the publication in it of any paper is a sufficient guarantee of intrinsic merit. The fourth volume of this journal is just complete, and contains much that is deeply interesting to mathematicians, among which not the least in importance are two elaborate papers by Mr. J. C. Glashan of Ottawa. In the first of these papers three of the most important series of the Differential Calculus are developed by a uniform method remarkable for its generality, completeness, and simplicity. The second paper, under the title of "Forms of Roll's Theorem," gives new and lucid demonstrations of nearly all the important propositions relating to the development of functions of simple and complex variables, and also exhibits, in the most general form yet published, the remainders in Taylor's, Cayley's, and Lagrange's series. These papers form an excellent supplement to what is contained in our college text-books upon the subjects of which they treat, and a careful study of them will put the student in possession of the most complete treatment which the development of functions has yet received.

When we have said that Mr. Glashan is still a comparatively young man, that he never had a collegiate training, that in all the higher mathematics he is in the fullest sense of the word self-taught, and that he has acquired his knowledge of his favorite science during the brief spells of leisure interspersed like oases throughout the busy life of a teacher and inspector, we have told enough to enforce the obvious moral which the above paragraph contains for all his fellow-workers in the educational ranks. How much of his achievements is due to a remarkable order of intellect, and how much to persevering industry, perhaps not even Mr. Glashan himself could say, but it is safe to assert that, were teachers generally to devote their spare moments to self-culture as systematically as he has done, many of them would soon astonish themselves by the effect on their own mental and professional condition.

#### INTERMEDIATE CHANGES.

With a view to giving as much publicity as possible to the changes made by the Education Department in the intermediate programme we republish the following regulation which was recently adopted by order-in-council:—

1. Drawing is removed from the obligatory subjects of study in the Lower Schools and in the Intermediate. The item, 7 e. now 6 e., in the optional subjects therein shall therefore, read, "French or German, and, when selected by the parent or guardian of such pupil, music or drawing."

2. In the subject of English Literature prescribed by the Order-in-Council, of the 31st March last, "Goldsmith's Traveller," or "Marmion" may be used by any pupil in the High School, or candidate at the departmental examinations in July next, as the parent or guardian may select.

It will be noticed that the option between "Marmion" and "The Traveller" is for the July Examination only. The arrangement for next year's work is not specified.