

way, then the concentration of our school energies must be made on the Concord plan of having fewer schools stationed at central points. If the teachers in our superior schools are to consider themselves outside the influence of this reform, as some say they are, they at least can have an amelioration in the three years' engagement idea, and this they can readily institute for themselves as the law at present stands. I am a believer in the principle of *aut vita aut culpa* as it used to be in the old parish schools of Scotland, a principle that endowed the teacher with the spirit of independence, and which has possibly made him to-day the educational reformer *par excellence* of his native land. That principle we may never live to see accepted on this side of the Atlantic. The school commissioner, who buds and blossoms as a providence in his own right, developing in time as the poor teacher's fate, is too much of a personage amongst us to tolerate any such innovation. And yet the principle is happily accepted as an unwritten law in some of our cities, while the three years' engagement idea has come to be accepted by some of our country towns, leading us to think that in time the anxiety-producing annual notice will in time be more respected in the breach than in the observance. Our teachers have this matter very much in their own hands, as they have very much the keeping up of salaries in their own hands. Let them be true to themselves and to the dignity of their calling, and the salaries must be sustained and increased, and their individual status enhanced.

"What salary had you last year?" a teacher was asked lately.

"I had two hundred and fifty dollars."

"And you are a college graduate?"

"Yes."

"And what salary have you this year?" "Four hundred."

"And what salary had your predecessor?" "Nine hundred."

Umph: there's professional etiquette for you, and in face of efforts made from year to year to bring that same position from being a five hundred dollar one—it never was four hundred till this year—to the thousand dollar mark. Will any of you tell me how long it will take the *aut vita aut culpa* principle to develop under such circumstances; will any of you say when the idea is likely to be matured in our province that the salary belongs to the position and not to the incumbent, under the influences illustrated by the above conversation?

The third reform, that of supervision, has also, I have been told, come in for serious consideration at the hands of those who are in a position to solve the problem satisfactorily. Inspection that brings the system into close touch with the people, and which has in it more of an active supervision than a mere inspection, is being introduced even in Great Britain, after having been successfully worked out in Prussia and the United States. The idea is abroad even among us that the people must have what the people demand, and that the people must have the check rein in their own hands as a means of keeping the head of things educational uplifted and on the *qui vive*. This is no place for the discussion of such a question, but it is none the less intimately mixed up with the question of supervisory inspection, and we may rest assured that those who have promised us reforms are as alive to its bearing on our circumstances as any of us are.

There are other matters which I would like to say something about in connection with our provincial affairs,