

and recognize the great difference between occupation forced upon the Government by circumstances which make it morally imperative, and occupation as the outcome of an aggressive policy, blind alike to the rights of the British taxpayer and the barbarous native.

It is often a matter of surprise to us that the great majority of the newspapers of the day, political and religious, are run upon so narrow lines. Why should they not throw their columns open freely to fair and courteous criticism even of their own pet theories and doctrines? These are all, of course, based upon profound conviction, reached by dint of prolonged and earnest inquiry. Every editor, worthy of his chair, must be familiar with the whole circle of opposing views and arguments in regard to the great questions with which he deals. Why not give the reader the same privilege? Why, for instance, should not the *Globe* and *Mail* invite free discussions of such living questions as Colonialism, Independence and Annexation? Or why should not the Orthodox Denominational organ be willing to have its patrons know all that is to be said in support of modern heresies concerning the doctrine of inspiration or endless punishment? These journals will often permit discussion to be prolonged *ad nauseam* on some petty topic, so long as it lies within a certain narrow enclosure, while discussion of questions infinitely broader and more important is ruthlessly shut out. Great movements in both the political and the religious spheres will not down. Theirs will think freely whether they may write freely, or not, but truth is often reached by earnest discussion, and its progress is hindered by those who should be its best friends, when the canons in reference to permitted articles are too rigidly exclusive.

The School.

The regular half-yearly meeting of the North York Teachers' Association, takes place at the Model School, on Thursday and Friday, 22nd and 23rd inst. We wish the members a good time.

"Your journal I prize very highly as an indispensable aid to all teachers," writes a lady subscriber and practical teacher. Our aim is to make it more and more indispensable, if that term will admit of degrees. None can help us so much in this work as the teachers themselves.

There seems in Ontario, or at least in its towns and cities, to be a marked carelessness in the election of members of the School Boards. The best men, it is alleged, are very seldom chosen. The *Globe* regrets the fact, and attributes it to the introduction of party politics into municipal contests. It thinks the evil would be lessened by having the votes for trustees thrown on the same day on which the municipal officers are voted for. Most persons would suppose that such an arrangement would intensify rather than cure the evil. Whatever the cause, the fact is deplorable. The very best men in the community should be chosen to superintend the working of the school machinery.

"Magister" suggests to the *Week* the desirability of giving more attention to criticism of the workings of our Public School system. He well observes that criticism, "intelligent, fair, outspoken, and thoroughly independent," "may yet spare us the perpetuation of the present truly remarkable and entirely unique method of preparing text-books for our schools; a method that assumes for the Minister and his advisers a wonderful amount of literary, professional and trade knowledge; a method the perpetuation of which will prove Ontario to be in such matter the most paternally-governed country in the enlightened world." We shall be very glad, with "Magister" to see the powerful influence of the "*Week*" enlisted in the Public School service, though we cannot but hope that he is wrong in his opinion that such independent criticism as is needed, may not be expected from the educational journals, or at least such of them as are free from any connection with the Education Department.

Teachers throughout Ontario and Quebec will remember the somewhat celebrated case of "Gage vs. Beatty and the Canada Publishing Company," which was before the courts a year or two since, and in which the plaintiff was successful in obtaining an injunction restraining the defendant from publishing and issuing a copy book, with the name "Beatty," and also in obtaining full costs. Our attention has been recalled to the subject by the recent announcement of a manual published by the Canada Publishing Company, entitled the "Teacher's Guide to Writing." If any one will take the trouble to compare this work with the "Manual of Penmanship," by Beatty & Macdonald, published by W. J. Gage & Co., he will find a most remarkable series of coincidences between the two books. A considerable part of the "Teacher's Guide to Writing," is identical, word for word, with Gage & Co.'s book. In another considerable part the phraseology of the latter is but slightly changed, a little condensed or a little expanded, as the case may be. There are, it is true, occasional alterations in the order in which the topics are presented, and there are some omissions and substitutions. But no one can compare the two books without coming to the conclusion that the one is a changed edition of the other, or that they are compiled from the same original. We know not whether the new work would be considered in law an infringement on the copyright of the old, nor is that our concern as journalists. But whether the "Teacher's Guide" is a rehash of the "Manual" by the same author, or by some other person, the business is not creditable to the parties who thus seek to profit by the investments of others, nor is it consonant with sound business morality. We are sorry to see such tactics resorted to in the production of school text books.

We give in this issue the full text of the scheme of University Federation agreed upon by the representatives of the various Universities and Colleges, who have been conferring upon the subject for months past. We have thought it better to give the report, though it draws somewhat heavily upon our space, rather than attempt a *resume* of its provisions. The experiment cannot fail to be of great interest to teachers and