

# THE ONTARIO TEACHER:

A MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.

---

Vol. 3.

APRIL, 1875.

No. 4.

---

## ORNAMENTING SCHOOL GROUNDS.

At this season of the year, when tree planting can be most successfully done, we would like to call the attention of School Trustees and Teachers to the desirability of ornamenting their school grounds. There is nothing in which the æsthetic tastes of the people of Canada, seem to be more neglected than in the matter of tree planting and pleasure walks. Many farm-houses have stood for a quarter of a century on some prominent and naturally beautiful situation, without a single tree or shrub to hide the nakedness, or break the monotony of the situation. It is rarely that evergreens are planted out, or gravel walks made, or flowers planted, with any degree of taste, or after any model of neatness. And what is so generally true about farm-houses and country residences applies almost invariably to our public school grounds. We know whole counties in which there are not half a dozen school grounds, with a single tree or shrub to ornament the dreariness of the situation. Not only is there no shrubbery, but firewood

and refuse of various kinds, most offensive to good taste, are strewed around, as if the school yard was specially designed to be a model of chaos and disgusting confusion.

Now to remedy these evils we would suggest that School Trustees would provide the ways and means for planting and ornamenting the school grounds, as early in the season as possible. It would require at most but a few dollars to plant out fifty or one hundred of our beautiful Canadian maples and poplars, interspersed with a few horse chestnuts or evergreens, to make our school-grounds much more attractive and interesting. Not only would this make our school-houses much more interesting to the public, but it would contribute very materially to the comfort of the pupils. Every teacher must have felt sorry that during the hot summer months, his pupils had no shelter from the scorching rays of the sun, and he must also have felt that in spite of his extra efforts to rouse the energies of his pupils, that after entering the school-