

siring to subtract an iota from the latter, we cannot help remarking on the universality with which mechanical methods are pursued in teaching writing in the schools of the present day, without regard to the physical and mental characteristics of the youth who are set to "do" the regulation copper-plate of the period, and whose handwriting instead of becoming idiosyncratic and disclosing a trace of character or of literary taste and culture, is fashioned in the uniform, mechanical mills of a prosaic and commercial age. In these days of machine routine, and of boards and inspectors, will no one say a good word for individualization and freedom? And with it all we have no peace; we must have trade rivalries, applications for the injunction of the Courts, and a battle-royal of copy-books and of their manufacturers! Even poor Mr. Beatty himself is to be put under the ordination of law; he is to be "mashed" in the legal machine; to be restrained by the Courts; to be deprived of his individuality and even of his name; and then to be asked to "pay the piper" while the others dance. Why, we would rather make slates than copy-books and be imposed upon in this fashion. If you write Beatty on a slate, you can rub it out, if anybody threatens to take your life or your purse for it. If you put it on a copy-book, the liberty of the subject is gone! When, we wonder, will monopolist publishers do the just rather than the gainful thing? "Live and let live" used to be the old-time rule; but now-a-days business is in the hands of graspers and grinders. At this rate, the life of a copy-book maker, however successfully he may grind out moral maxims and engrave them, is not worth living.

Since the above was written, we notice that Mr. Beatty and the Canada Publishing Co. have been restrained by the Courts from issuing a new series of copy-books on which Mr. Beatty's name appears, lest that issue shall confuse the public in its eager search for the productions of what some speak of as the "original and only Mr. Beatty." While respecting this judgment of the Courts, we cannot refrain from saying that, in our opin-

ion, the Bench has scarcely grasped the situation, if it concedes to Mr. Beatty the undoubted right to make a "new and improved series of copy-books," in the profits of which he shall participate, and yet restrains him from doing so lest his new enterprise may interfere with a previous series in which he has now no interest, and from the sales of which he receives no consideration for the use of his name. The question of similarity of design in the cover may at once be disposed of by stating that both series have a common origin in the American copy-books of Payson and Dunton, and the other issues of the United States market. There can therefore be no claim to originality, or to copyright, in the cover; while the trademark of "Beatty," in the absence of any agreement to abstain from using it, must surely rest in the owner of that patronymic. The idea of the trade mistaking the two series is not to be seriously thought of; nor are the plaintiffs in the case likely to suffer from teachers making any similar mistake. Both the trade and the profession are sure to be better informed by vigilant publishers. On a rehearing of the case we feel sure that the present decision of the Courts will be reversed. Were it to stand, it would not only be a grave personal injustice, but it would give a very questionable countenance and a still more questionable fillip to monopoly.

AUTHORSHIP MADE EASY.

WHEN, we wonder, will our Wellington Street friends learn even the commercial worth of artlessness? Its spiritual worth, we fear, will be forever beyond their ken. Taking the suggestion from the excellent papers on "Common Errors of Speech and their Correction," contributed by Mr. Strang, of Goderich, to the March and April numbers of the MONTHLY, Messrs. Gage, we are told, are manufacturing a book on "False Syntax," by the easy method of writing to Head Masters throughout the Province for examples drawn from local sources, and, as we learn, from native educational periodicals other than, we need hardly say, that