

proprietors do not act solely from motives of pure philanthropy in starting these special columns for educational matters. They find that the taste of the people is becoming so cultivated as to demand such information, and hence they hasten to supply it. This is encouraging to those who take an interest in the highest welfare of the human race. It is a practical refutation of the croaker's theory that the popular taste is growing worse instead of better. The educational columns of several of the local papers of Canada are ably conducted, and they cannot fail to secure a widespread and intelligent interest in all that pertains to the proper development of the youth of our country. In this connection, the following admirable remarks by a correspondent of the *Huron Expositor* are worthy of consideration :

"The fact that the whole population is deeply interested in education is sufficient guarantee that an occasional column on educational questions would be of general interest. I do not agree, however, that this space should become the medium for furnishing solutions and answers to a class of unworthy teachers, who have not enterprise enough to supply themselves with the ordinary professional tools in the shape of books and educational papers. They have their text-books ; let them read them. For if they will not hear the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, which gives solutions of teachers' and university examination papers for a dollar a year, together with a vast amount of useful information, neither would they hear though *The Expositor* gave them instruction gratis. I should object to see valuable space devoted to technical school-room matters—the parallelogram of forces, De Moivre's theorem, and other matters of that class ; but as a means of intercommunication between teachers and other friends of education, I consider the assistance of the press invaluable. The friends of education are scattered and isolated ; their influence is divided and weakened. United through the friendly medium of a newspaper, their influence would be multiplied and the benefits of their labors more widely diffused. I fancy there would be no difficulty in securing contributions of readable and useful matter ; brief, pointed, and clear, each dealing with only one or two leading ideas at a time. One of the most valuable and interesting contributions, if it could be secured from parents and teachers, would be reports of cases which have occurred in the course of experience. A short history of successful methods of dealing with dull, unruly, or vicious children without perpetual pounding and rawhiding, would be read by everybody. Any clown can rule by force and fear, if he only has good nerves, a strong arm, and enough stupidity. Those who succeed in getting the young to educate themselves by appealing to higher motives than fear, should be able to supply examples of the superiority of moral influence over brute force. The operation of the school law, proposed improvements in any of our educational machinery from a blackboard brush to a minister, suggestions to parents and teachers, plans of study, means of self-improvement, criticisms of text-books (the most reliable ones to be had), information on general educational matters both home and foreign ; these and kindred topics would furnish occasional columns full of interest to the whole reading population. The educational question is one on which we are all united, and in which we all feel profound interest. What is most wanted in Ontario at the present time is not so much further improvements in our educational machinery as an illumination of the public mind, the cultivation of higher views than mere utilitarian theories of education, the introduction of a better and more enthusiastic educational spirit. The press is one of the most potent means of accomplishing this desirable end, which will make Ontario to the Dominion what Greece was to Europe."

—Our readers will notice that this month, for the first time since the SCHOOL JOURNAL was started, we dispense with the portrait and biographical sketch on the first page. While we have reason to know that this feature of the SCHOOL JOURNAL has been greatly appreciated, it will be readily understood that material for keeping it up must in course of time become

somewhat scarce. Henceforth the publishers propose to produce portraits and sketches as occasion seems to call for them, the intention being neither to discontinue them altogether, nor to issue them at stated times as heretofore. By coupling them with educational interests of importance, it is hoped that a new value will be imparted to this popular feature of the JOURNAL, which will more than counterbalance any irregularity in the appearance of the portraits.

—Many earnest teachers will be delighted to learn that the Convocation of the University of London has decided to request the Senate of the University to establish a *Degree of Education*. The following is a copy of the resolution adopted :

*Resolved*, That it is desirable that proficiency in the Science and Art of Education be recognized, not merely by the giving of a certificate, but by the conferring of a Degree ; and this House requests the Senate either to institute a new degree for this purpose, or to add a fourth branch in which the M.A. degree may be taken co-ordinate with the three existing branches, Classics, Mathematics and Philosophy.

The following is an outline of the scheme of the examination prepared :

- I. Logic, Mental and Moral Philosophy.
- II. Human Physiology.
- III. Educational Principles and Methods.
- IV. School Management.
- V. History and Literature of Education.

—Teachers and others interested in education should not forget the meeting of the Provincial Teachers' Association, to be held in Toronto on the 12th, 13th and 14th of August. The programme is an unusually interesting one.

—Hon. J. P. Wickersham submitted to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, during its last session, a bill, the main feature of which was a provision for the establishment of homes for friendless children, where they would be properly cared for, instructed in the rudiments of knowledge, trained in habits of industry and morality, and from which they should be placed in private families whenever proper persons could be found to receive them. We regret to learn that the bill was defeated.

## Contributions and Correspondence.

### TEACHING READING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BY PROFESSOR A. MELVILLE BELL, BRANTFORD.

There is an adage which, in days long gone by, was frequently quoted to me by my father, when we discussed theoretical professional points, and which I have come more and more to recognize as applicable to the Art of Teaching generally, namely, that "What is best administered is best." You may have a good plan, but fail by carelessness or inaptitude, to produce good results ; or you may have an inferior method, and yet, by carefulness and tact, achieve comparative success. I hope to show you, from my own experience, a system of teaching Reading which is calculated to produce the best results if skilfully put in practice, and which I think cannot fail to work a large measure of improvement under any circumstances.