

Besides other disadvantages, these questions are often obtained in advance by some masters from others whose schools the Inspectors have already visited. Such examinations had better be dropped. At a meeting of the Teachers' Convention which I attended a year or so ago, a resolution was passed to the effect that each Inspector should devote himself to an examination in the departments in which he is thoroughly competent to examine, and that the schools should be classified at the end of every year and a half. *Nothing has come of this so far, but it is well worth the attention of the Minister.* Let us have our system of education as perfect as possible, and above all let us have no sham work. If the High School master cannot teach all the advanced work in the programme, neither can the Inspector examine on it. I hope you will keep these matters before the public. The subject is a delicate one for teachers to handle, and we look to a periodical like your admirable magazine to advocate our interests.

I am, yours truly,

A HIGH SCHOOL MASTER.

October 25th.

THE TEACHER AND CIVIC PROCESSIONS.

To the Editor of the Canada Educational Monthly:

SIR,—Would you be kind enough to inform me through the columns of the MONTHLY if a Public School Board has any legal right to make use of the teachers for any other purpose than for what are usually known as school duties. It may be quite right, but it struck me as odd that the Toronto School Board should threaten teachers with dismissal for declining to march through the streets on a holiday to make a show of themselves. These teachers have been accused of putting on airs, but I fail to see why they should be expected to do what other ladies and gentlemen would probably shrink from doing.

Apart from the question of the propriety of making these demonstrations at all, I think that teachers and children should not be

looked upon as instruments in any one's hands for making a public display. If they are willing to take part in a civic show, well and good, but the tone assumed by the Board seems to me uncalled-for, tyrannical, and vulgar.

Yours, etc.,

Toronto.

JUSTICE.

—Our correspondent touches a somewhat delicate subject in the query he makes in our columns, though there should be no difficulty in candidly discussing the question at issue, and in giving an opinion upon it which should be satisfactory to both parties interested in the settlement of the matter.

We believe that the School Board has no *legal* right to the services of the teacher outside the school and the play-ground, and only in these during the school-hours prescribed by the regulations. Any rights of the Board beyond these are only rights by courtesy, and of course are not obligatory. In the case of the young ladies attached to one of the City schools who refused to muster with their classes at the late reception-demonstration in honour of the Governor-General and the Princess Louise, it is argued that the School Board had a right to claim the attendance of the teachers, as the muster was to take place within the usual school hours, and their presence was necessary to maintain order and decorum, and it might be added, to give assurance to the parents of the children that the latter would be carefully looked after.

We have already said that our belief is that the School Board can only legally command the teacher's services within the school-room and its immediate precincts; hence, for the special service required of any of the staff of the schools, on the occasion referred to, it could only request a voluntary attendance. In a certain sense, as it was to be a holiday parade, presumably gratifying to both teacher and pupil, as a picnic festival might be, the reasonableness of the service might have elicited a willing and unanimous response. Still we hold that it must be considered a voluntary one; and being this, it is one where individual feeling or caprice, or whatever the motive for abstention,—even if it be mascu-