

THE CANADA
EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY
AND SCHOOL CHRONICLE.

FEBRUARY, 1879.

THE PROMOTION OF CULTURE.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE not unreasonable expectation of those who closely and interestedly watch the result of educational work in Canada, is, that it shall largely contribute to the public culture, and be successful in elevating the tastes and refining the life of the people. In the cities, and in the older and more thickly-settled portions of Ontario, at any rate, is this influence expected to be at work. In the country towns, also, though Canada by a high authority is said to be "raw, rough, and democratic," there is an inviting field for the operation of the meliorating and refining influences of education. To a large portion of our people, in these sections, education means more than the acquisition of a few elementary facts, and such mental training as will enable our youth to cipher and to read. Even in the rural districts, except, perhaps, in the case of the settlers in the remote townships of the Province, and among the In-

dians, the demands upon education are ambitious ones. With no benighted labouring class in Canada, corresponding to the "Hodge" of the motherland, education has not to waste time upon uncouth and unpromising material. Hence, there is not the necessity to lower the plane of our primary education to that of his midnight ignorance. This advantage in our favour, we begin our educational work at a higher pitch, though the height we reach at the finish should be correspondingly elevated, and the results looked for those that mark the fulfilment of a great expectation. How far we realize these expectations is fair matter for thoughtful consideration; though, perhaps, we will save ourselves some trouble if we frankly confess that our realization of them is very imperfect. We have the machinery of education, the shafting, the belting, and the motive power,—and the work all goes on,