

Christian Endeavour, and the Royal Templars of Temperance, have never used tobacco in any form, and can supply references from those who know me showing my character to be blameless." It is indeed sad to think that one so excessively immaculate should have to content himself with the reflection that virtue is its own—and often its only—reward. The lack of intelligence shown by some applicants in submitting "recommends" and testimonials is indeed surprising. One is not impressed favourably with an applicant's past experience by looking through a dirty, greasy package of letters, some in red ink, some in violet ink, some in black ink and some in pencil, execrably written and spelled, certifying to the opinion held by the school trustees of some obscure township as to the holder's abilities. I cannot forbear quoting one of this class of testimonials: "We the undersigned Trustees for _____ School District do hereby certify that they have known _____ for a number of year in the capacity as School Teacher and that he is thorogly competent to teach a graded school according to the laws of the School act for the Dominion of Canada and we take great pleasure in recommending him to any community in want of a teacher. You very truly." Unless assured that the applicant who relied on a testimonial such as this held a Second Class Teacher's Certificate, one would not suspect that his intelligence had been expanded and elevated by high education. One cannot but tremble for the interests of education in a community where such trustees have the management of school affairs. Some of the applicants send printed copies of their testimonials, but ap-

parently they do not realize that this creates the inference either that they are so often applying for situations as to render copying their recommendations in each case too great an undertaking, or that they are displaying vanity and bad taste. One individual has not only his testimonials printed, but prints even his application itself, blanks being left for dates, salary, etc., the whole being surrounded with a very fancy border; and he evidently intends to make use of the application elsewhere if unsuccessful, for he concludes: "Return this pamphlet (sic) if my application is rejected."

It is, of course, not possible to cite every instance of lack of knowledge, culture and intelligence, but enough has been said to indicate what a large proportion of the sixty applications in question gave evidence of these defects in the applicants. And it must be remembered that in making an application for a situation the applicant naturally endeavours to present himself in every way in the most favourable light. When so much is gathered from merely letters of application, what would be the result of a more complete and searching examination into the applicant's abilities and character? As I have said, these teachers are, or should be, the best results of our advanced education, and it is they who are conducting the education of the rising generation. Under the circumstances a doubt as to the practical results of our educational methods cannot but arise. I do not at present attempt to assign a cause for what I can only regard as a failure somewhere or to suggest a remedy. I merely call attention to the serious fact.