

Everything cannot be accomplished in a few months, but we take it for granted that this Canadian Minister of Education means to make Canadian children somewhat acquainted with the story of their own fair land. Our boys and girls shall know who Champlain and Frontenac were, how England came into possession of these floods and forests, what dangers and difficulties befel the pioneers in these provinces, how responsible government came in and with what struggles, how the constitution and laws arose under which we live, what is the measure and what the guarantee of the freedom and privileges we are handing over to these children. Our Canadian boys and girls shall know something of the heroic struggles and the sturdy independence of those whose monuments are the free, fair homes of Canada hewn from the unbroken forest. They shall feel their young hearts glow with patriotic enthusiasm over the story of adventure and daring equal to any in European annals. They shall grow up to honor the memory of the soldiers, the statesmen, the scholars, the philanthropists, the hardy pioneers, all who have labored in the spirit of self-sacrifice to place the boys and girls of 1884 in the midst of the advantages they now enjoy. They shall mark the errors of the past, and learn to use their liberty and intelligence in developing the material and moral resources of our young nation and in shaping for it a destiny worthy of its noble parentage.

This is indeed one of the best things our system can do for the rising generation. How is the result to be accomplished? By training its teachers, for **THE TEACHER IS THE SCHOOL**. It cannot be done by merely drawing up paper programmes, and prescribing dictionaries of Canadian antiquities. That plan has been tried before, and has failed on every trial. It cannot be done by setting examination papers for public and high schools, for colleges and universities, with one or perhaps two questions only on Canadian affairs. It cannot be done by continually giving Canadian history the go-by, and acting on the assumption that we have no history worth studying, and that the doings of stark William, red-haired William, long-legged Edward, or six-wived Henry are of more practical importance to the average Canadian citizen than Pontiac's conspiracy, the American invasion, Durham's report, or the Act of British North America.

We have been bestridden by European ideals in this matter, and have been led to look upon ourselves as mere colonists to such an extent that scarcely a hundred of our seven thousand teachers have any adequate knowledge of our three centuries of remarkable progress. The demand has been so small that we have scarcely a decent text-book. Place Canadian history on a level with chemistry and geography and good text-books will soon appear. Make it a necessary subject in every examination for a teacher's certificate, and insist on something more than can be learned in a few hours from a child's primer, and we shall soon have teachers with a constructive comprehension of the subject, with power to hold the attention of their pupils, placing before them the stirring scenes of our history and filling them with the idea that they have a country worth living for, a liberty worth defending, and

a future not to be over-shadowed by that of any other civilized community. Good speed to the introduction of Canadian history into the schools of Canada.

✓ THE ELEVENTH PLAGUE.

The malignity of Satan has never devised anything worse for youth than the Dime Novel, the Nickel Library, and the rest of the foul brood that is constantly issuing from the New York printing-houses. The arch-fiend made a master stroke in getting the press enlisted into his service. This juvenile criminal literature is a far more awful scourge to our race than leprosy, cholera, and yellow fever combined. They slay their thousands, but corrupt literature specially prepared for young boys ruins its tens of thousands. The angel of death can sheath his sword, and pestilence at last ceases from the work of destruction. But the wretches who ply the infamous business of corrupting and degrading our boys take no holidays. They dig graves that reach down to perdition, and never cease from the diabolical trade of snaring the flower of our youth into the jaws of something worse than death, and ruinous as hell. Their terrible poison pours more than seven vials of woe into the bosom of the family, and blights the hopes of parents by destroying the son of their tenderest affection. If fiends ever rejoice, it must be when they see literature, one of the grandest instruments for the moral elevation of mankind, the handmaid of purity and virtue, vilely prostituted to the service of darkness and vice.

If these remarks seem too strongly expressed, we could easily produce a dozen paragraphs from the daily papers gleaned in the course of merely a couple of weeks to show that this statement of the evil arising from impure books for boys is all too feeble, and does not convey half the truth concerning its heinousness and turpitude.

We have laws to protect even our cattle against contagion. We have quarantines and health officers to prevent the spread of smallpox, cholera, ship fever, and other virulent diseases. We have gone so far as to prohibit filthy, obscene, licentious literature. We have penal laws against the revolver and the dirk. But this "Jesse James" and "Buffalo Bill" literature is allowed to cross our lines without objection, though it is destroying our first-born and steeping many a home in woe. It is time that the teachers and parents throughout the whole Dominion joined in a thousand-voiced protest of indignation against this outrage on our schools and our homes. Let every teachers' convention and every board of trustees pass resolutions of abhorrence and forward them to the local governments. Let every Sunday School convention and every conference, synod, and assembly do the same. Let every newspaper and educational journal attack the vile trash and demand its exclusion from our shores. Let every pulpit denounce this traffic in the souls of our boys. It is the common enemy of the human race, let us join battle against our hated foe without distinction of creed. Canada long ago, first on this continent, first of the British colonies, declared death to