

THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

OCTOBER 1897.

AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION.

DR. J. M. HARPER, QUEBEC.

IN presenting greetings from the Province of Quebec to the American Institute of Instruction my task is simple enough in itself, for as far as my commission goes I have only to extend the right hand of fellowship to you, sir, and the members of this old and world-famed educational organization, and humbly resume my place, as among those who desire to receive rather than to give advice. As a citizen of what may be called the oldest province in the Dominion of Canada, as well as in my capacity of President of one of our provincial teachers' associations, I certainly wish to bid you welcome to Quebec; may your visit here be long remembered as one bringing to you the largest measure of pleasure and profit, whatever may have been your motives in selecting the city of which we provincials are so proud, as the place of your convention this year. In such conventions as this the long continued strife of the philosophies over self-interest *versus* benevolence as the fundamental lines of the humanities, seems to have found a truce in the mutual benefit idea; and who will say that the mutual benefit idea is not as safe an ethical principle as empiricism is like-

ly to find for us in this age of self-seeking? And hence in the greeting I extend to you there must be no one-sidedness. The give and take between us must at least have a look of fair play about it. When two men meet there can be little after friendship between them without some interchange of confidences. They must know and be known of one another. And as you have granted us the privilege of taking part in your proceedings in order that we may learn of you and your work as educators and educationists, we also, in giving you hearty welcome among us, will have to render some account of ourselves and what we are doing for ourselves along the lines of educational progress; and therefore I hope you will bear with me, when I proceed to tell you, in as concise a way as possible, what we of Quebec are educationally speaking, and what our seeming destiny is as a people desiring to be ranked among our neighbors as educated people having a confidence in our future.

When we address one another in our own educational gatherings, the spirit of reform is as often the bleating of the benighted lamb as it is among yourselves, when the spirit of