

regret to see among the editorial notes, an article written in a spirit of unfairness greatly to be deplored, and in which the writer very coolly takes occasion to deny to this Province any share of the honours won by Canada, in connection with education, at the Paris Exhibition. We refer to the following: "Those who laud, and properly laud, the efficiency of the educational system of Canada must, we fear, learn to speak of the country they eulogize in a somewhat local sense, referring particularly to the Province of Ontario and to the Maritime Provinces. That the Province of Quebec, at any rate, should be excluded from a share in the compliment is, unhappily, but too apparent, if the state of Elementary English Education, in the country parts of that Province is to be taken as a criterion of excellence. At the recent Paris Exhibition, it was specially noticed by French Educationists that the portion of *la belle Canada* (sic!) inhabited by the people of their own race and language, the Quebec Province, had little share in the honours won for the Dominion by the Exhibit in the Canada Educational Court." Now, how any one could put down in writing, for the press, the foregoing assertions with the official catalogue of rewards, published by the French Government, before his eyes, can only be accounted for by supposing that his respect for the truth is on a par with his *evident* knowledge of the French language. For upon opening the Catalogue at the Page 12, II Group, 6th. "Class, Primary Instruction—we find a Diploma (equal to a Gold Medal) awarded to each of the Provinces of Ontario et Quebec, a Diploma to the Christian Brothers Province of Quebec—a Silver Medal to H. Larochelle, Province of Quebec, for a system of mounted maps—a Silver Medal to A. N. Montpetit, Province of Quebec, for a series of School Readers, in the French language—Bronze medals to E. Chanteloup, Montreal, for School apparatus; to the Montreal School of Arts and Manufactures, to the Institution for the Blind, to the Institution for Deaf-Mutes (female) and to the Institution for Deaf-Mutes (male) all of Montreal—Honorable Mention to Chevalier C. Baillargé, of Quebec, for Stereometrical Tableau—to Rolland & Fils, Montreal, for school books, &c. J. B. Carter, Toronto, Copp, Clerk & Co., Toronto, and Novelty Works Brockville, Ontario, for School appliances, &c. A first class Diploma equivalent to a Gold Medal was also awarded to the Honorable P. J. O. Chauveau, for his very valuable work *L'Instruction Publique au Canada*," and a diploma of the same class to Mr. G. Hodgins of Ontario.

In Class 7. *Organisation and Appliances for Secondary Instruction*.—we again find the two Departments of Education of Ontario and Quebec receiving a first class diploma of equal value. A silver medal to the Montreal Polytechnic school—and a bronze medal to Mr. May of Ontario. Honorable Mention is again awarded to Chevalier Baillargé, in this class. In Class 8, Superior Education a diploma equivalent to a silver medal is awarded to each of the Departments of Education of Ontario and Quebec. Silver medals to Professor Macoun, of Belleville, Ontario, for a *Flora Canadensis*, and to McGill University, Montreal. The foregoing list gives therefore *fourteen* Diplomas and Medals and *three* times Honorable mention to the Province of Quebec—against *six* Diplomas and medals and *three* times Honorable Mention to the Province of Ontario.

We may also draw attention to the fact that although the Educational Departments of Ontario and Quebec received Diplomas of equal value in the various classes, there was this difference in the Exhibits: that whilst Ontario exhibited the appliances, books, charts, &c., used in her schools, her educational tools, so to

speaking, Quebec exhibited the *results* obtained from her educational machinery in the everyday work of the pupils in the various schools of the Province, and that at very short notice, as will appear by the following extract from a Circular of the Superintendent of Education of Quebec addressed to the local school authorities, dated 10th December 1877. "There are two ways of "organizing an exhibition: the first consists in holding "up to the admiration of the public exceptional productions of pupils; we do not wish to adopt this "method: the second consists in exhibiting a whole "collection of work instead of one piece of work. The "latter method the Commission believe to be preferable, "or rather the only proper one in Educational matters. "We do not wish to send selected work to Paris, and "thus mislead persons to imagine that we have rare "talents in our schools, but prefer showing that our "system is good in its integrity from the university to "the public school. To this end our system must be "shown as it is, and as it works daily, exhibiting the "work of the professors and the daily tasks of the "pupils. With this view the Commission proposes to "establish in all the higher educational institutions, "a general competition, which will begin as soon as "possible, and end at the latest by the 15th February "next."

Thus it will be seen that the work exhibited was collected within the space of two months, without previous preparation, and then the greater part of the schools sent the work of only a week or a fortnight; neither had the Quebec Department of Public Instruction the advantage of profiting by the experience gained by the Ontario Department at the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia.

With the foregoing facts before them we can safely leave it to our readers to judge if our contemporary be justified in setting up the Province of Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, which latter are not even mentioned in the Official Catalogue, as the sole representatives of enlightenment and educational progress in the Dominion of Canada.

The *Montreal Gazette* of the 6th instant, in an article referring to the unjust assertions of the Educational Monthly with regard to the French Canadians, says: "We really cannot reconcile this reflection (if it be grounded) with the fact, to which we had the pleasure of calling attention about a month ago, that special honours were conferred by the French Department of Public Instruction on four gentlemen interested at various times and in various capacities and degrees, in the educational work of the Province of Quebec. A gold medal was granted to the Hon. Mr. Chauveau, formerly Superintendent and Minister of Education, for his excellent work, "*L'Instruction Publique au Canada*;" the Hon. Mr. Ouimet, the present Superintendent and the late Dr. Meilleur, ex-Superintendent and the Hon. Mr. Chauveau were created "*officiers honoraires de l'Instruction Publique*" and Mr. U. E. Archambault, principal of the Catholic Commercial Academy of this city, was created "*officier d'Académie*." No more graceful acknowledgment could be given by France of her appreciation of the progress made in education by the descendants of Frenchmen in the Dominion, and no better evidence could be adduced of the incorrectness of the notion that in Lower Canada we are altogether behind the times in so all-important a matter.

We would also wish to draw the attention of the writer in the Educational Monthly to the following extract from the same article, in which he may find that the Province of Ontario is more indebted to this part of *la belle Canada* than he was perhaps aware of: