

of the Board, that Her Majesty received the address with a gracious expression of her appreciation of the loyalty which inspired it, and that he has received Her Majesty's command to convey her cordial thanks to the members of the Board for their message of dutiful congratulations and good wishes.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"JOHN BRAMSTEN.

"The High Commissioner of Canada."

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The following is an English idea concerning Canadian affairs, and we all know what incongruity there is often to be found between the two :

"We may express here our thanks to the Hon. George Ross, Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario, for a lucid and well-ordered account of the school system of which he is the head. Probably in no part of the British Empire is the organization so complete, covering, as it does, the whole educational field, from the Kindergarten to the University. As the book will come into the hands of many of our readers, we need not communicate its contents in detail. We confine ourselves to saying that it is full of matter relevant to the great controversies of the day. Some of us, for example, believe that in England we have not merely to settle an issue between centralization and decentralization ; but that we require a careful examination of the extent to which, and the respects in which, it is proper for the State to delegate its functions to local bodies. Ontario supplies us with an instance of central control. All text-books are prescribed by the Education Department, and the teacher who uses an unauthorized book is liable to a fine of ten dollars. Yet nothing can cramp, and indeed torture a teacher more than restricting

him to a book which he does not approve, or as to which he feels that, however good it may be for others, it is bad for him."

There is now no province in the Dominion of Canada where the teacher may have use of a text-book of his own selection, unless it be British Columbia. In the province of Quebec the text-book committee seems to aim at being the great *sine qua non* influence in all educational movements from the election of a member of the Protestant Committee to the classification of booksellers and publishers into two great divisions, those who should be patronized and those who should not be. And yet, notwithstanding all their indirect methods, the list of text-books they have given to the world is little short of a new "tree of the knowledge of good and evil," if we may judge from the published programme,

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"Boys will be boys," is a true saying, and never more true than when they are at play. A city editor has been having a double game of "hyspy" with them, and this is what he says :

"It's a gruesome place to choose for a play-ground, but boys appear to have a preference for the graveyard in New street to the public roadway, for the upkeep of which their parents pay rates. The other night as I passed they were playing hide-and-seek among the tomb-stones, and one sat in tailor fashion on the six-inch edge of a high monument, desecrating memory and outraging sentiment as he yelled out something between a war chant and a music-hall ditty. After all, when one comes to consider the matter, there is not so much to find fault with. A boy cannot be sentimental, and his rule is to discover the best place for amusement and at once proceed thither for the purpose. It