

THE  
EDUCATIONAL RECORD

OF THE  
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

---

No. 11.

NOVEMBER, 1895.

VOL. XV.

---

**Articles : Original and Selected.**

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.\*

By R. J. HEWTON, M.A., INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

The premier of a government is regarded as the representative or embodiment of its general policy ; it seems fitting, also, that the President of this Association—though he can make no claim to speak *ex cathedra*, to express anything but his own individual opinion—should speak of general matters rather than of any particular phase of educational work.

I lay it down as a first principle, that not the least important part of our work as a Teachers' Association is the cultivation of a sound, vigorous and healthy public opinion on matters educational. We should aim at fostering an ideal that shall grow and spread till it makes itself felt in the parliamentary halls of the country. We are too apt, when we have the opportunity of addressing a meeting such as this, to ask people to do things which are impossible, or, equally effective as a deterrent, which they believe to be impossible ; but it is not impossible for us, individually and collectively, to do something to elevate the tone of public opinion on school matters. Our standards must be high, but they must be wise, prudent, practical. Once the mind of our people is ingrained with the idea that educa-

---

\* Delivered before the Convention of the Association of Protestant Teachers, held on October 10th, 1895, in the City of Sherbrooke.