

forming for the schools of the Dominion, and it is a service which, it seems to us, has been very efficiently rendered by the editors of the books before us. The study of English is now happily taking its rightful place in the schools, from which it has hitherto been largely divorced by the undue prominence given to mathematics and other less important subjects. The impetus which these Readers are likely to give to the practical and successful study of English in the various stages of the school course will be evident from even a cursory examination; and we should say that few pupils of ordinary intelligence will be willing to leave these books without desiring to know more of English literature.

TRADUCING THE PROFESSION.

THE unwarrantable, and it might seem almost wanton, attack on the teaching profession occurring in Mr. Charlton's Bill against Seduction, lately before Parliament, reminds us of the delicate satire of a recent writer in speaking of men "who think success means getting upon a Committee of the House, or carrying a Bill through the Legislature," forgetting the truer success of properly instructing the public mind, and of leading the sentiment of the community into wholesome and righteous channels. Mr. Charlton's indiscretion is the indiscretion of not a few of our public men, who, when they are bitten with the idea of setting the world aright, either lose their common-sense or the power of looking at things from all sides. To initiate legislation on social evils is a delicate undertaking, and the task of steering between the Scylla of unpunished crime and the Charybdis of popular prejudice requires the exercise of a rare judgment and an unerring tact. What judgment Mr. Charlton has shown is apparent when, in attempting to legislate against a heinous crime, he brands the teaching fraternity as before and above all men *the* offenders against chastity, and stigmatizes the profession as if it included the only possible culprits to be criminally dealt with by the provisions of his proposed Act.

The meeting of the Toronto teachers, to

take steps to have the offensive clause in the Bill expunged, very properly resented the slur cast at the profession by Mr. Charlton's heedless action. As was stated at the meeting, the seduction of minors by teachers was happily a rare occurrence; and while the mass of the profession, presumed, was in sympathy with legislation which would make the offence a criminal one, those present had the spirit to dispute Mr. Charlton's right to fasten upon teachers as a class the odium of a crime which was less chargeable to them than to others in the community whose opportunities and influence over women might, if at all, be more fairly considered a menace to virtue.

It may be said for the profession that its members want no privileges which are not reasonably granted to other classes of the community. They justly claim, however, a share in the comity recognized by the social code, and ask to be treated with the respect which is accorded to other reputable professions. It is their misfortune that legislation in connection with the schools has brought the fraternity more than its members care before the public; but he would be a reckless man who would presume upon this to pass a slight upon the profession, or make insidious attacks upon its morals. Instead of being the great violators of the law, teachers—need we say?—are its most intelligent mainstay.

MORE "SCHOOL JOURNAL" MIS-REPRESENTATION.

OUR readers will readily understand that we have something else to do than take up valuable space in the MONTHLY in noticing the jaundiced comments of the *School Journal* on editorial utterances in our columns. That with the issue of each number of THE MONTHLY the publishers of the *School Journal* should go through the spiritual exercise of cursing, instead of blessing, us, was quite to be expected. An independent organ of the profession, representing its higher interests, and the mouthpiece neither of publishing house nor of would-be toadies of the Department, is naturally enough a thorn in the flesh