

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"STANDING CRYING IN THE
MARKET-PLACE."

IN this age of universal self-seeking it is not to be wondered at if the teaching profession should in some degree be beguiled into adopting the arts of rival tradesmen. From few quarters, however, is there more danger to be dreaded than this, and unhappily there are indications that higher education particularly is in respect of this matter at the present moment in the gravest peril. Competition amongst our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes has broken out into a fever, and, unless a stronger common-sense on the part of head-masters prevails and a more loyal adherence to the code of professional etiquette manifests itself, our High Schools will shortly enter upon a race with each other that can end only in the degradation of the profession and a sorry cheapening of all that we now prize in our educational system. The Departmental principle of "Payment by Results" is obviously responsible for much of this unwholesome rivalry, as it is also responsible for much that is vicious in the training of pupils. Under that system a perpetual struggle goes on for additional scholars that the Government grant may be increased and the school derive whatever benefit may accrue from the possession of mere numbers. Supply and demand being thus unhealthily stimulated, education in the various branches is sold like wares in a shop, and the heads of the school resort to trade devices which, though they may bring custom to their institutions, secure it at the expense of scholastic and professional degeneracy. At the present moment, when the effort is being made to get rid of self-seeking, in connection with official trading in school-books, it is to be hoped that the zeal of an equally ignoble kind which threatens from

another quarter will be spared to the profession. Its continued indulgence, it may be relied on, will be most disastrous to the teaching fraternity, while not the least of its evils will be the engendering of a partizan and factious feeling among the institutes most lamentable in its consequences. Of course, when the pockets of masters are affected, it is difficult for those whose emoluments are scanty to be either generous or disinterested. That such, as well as the profession at large, are not adequately remunerated is a matter that should enlist the most active public sympathy; but teachers will not be most likely to attract this by making a trade of their profession. Those, particularly, who have to mould the minds and characters of youth, should be animated by fine feeling, and above the motives of sordid gain. We speak in all kindness when we ask masters to desist from practices which their own self-respect should prompt them to discontinue, and to refrain from those acts which compromise and degrade the profession.

OUR NORMAL SCHOOLS.

THE publication in our issue for April last of the experiences of a Toronto Normal School student, in attending the sessions of that institution, has called forth a number of letters in support of the views expressed which we have been slow to reproduce in our pages. One reason for hitherto suppressing this correspondence, we may observe; was this: that we had no ambition to appear oftener than was necessary in the rôle of the "stormy petrel" of the profession. Another and more weighty reason, however, may be cited, viz.: that we were unwilling to form too hasty a judgment as to the merit or demerit of the institution in question, and were more unwilling still, whatever the evidence,