

MR. DAVID BOYLE AND MESSRS.
GAGE & CO.

To the Editor of the C. E. Monthly.

SIR,—From whatever aspect we view the dastardly attack on Mr. David Boyle, which appeared in the last issue of the *School Journal*, the abject meanness and stupendous impudence of the writer are manifest. There is no occasion for "lifting veils" in this case. The veil is so thin that the baseness of the motive can be seen without removing it. Doubtless the writer, in the littleness of his soul, fancied that he was killing two birds with one stone; but he must not be surprised if he finds that the recoil of the missile has wounded himself more than it has his intended victims. Those who were present at the Wellington Teachers' Convention about a year ago, when Mr. Boyle, in a straightforward, manly way, and in the presence of Mr. Gage, gave reasons why teachers should not support the *School Journal* in preference to the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY, will not have far to look for the motive which prompted the attack.

If Mr. Boyle had been employed to "get up" a series of mathematical works, some justification might be found for the exposure of his weakness in mathematical subjects. But what have arithmetic and algebra to do with School Readers? How many of our best writers have known almost nothing of mathematics! I need hardly say that it did not suit Gage & Co.'s purpose to publish Mr. Boyle's marks in *all* the subjects, much less in those subjects an intimate knowledge of which is requisite for taking part in the preparing of a series of School Readers. Let me supply them, and the reason for their suppression becomes evident.

Mr. Boyle obtained at the Examination to which Gage & Co. refer, the following marks—the highest being 1 and the lowest 6:—Reading 1, Spelling 1, Etymology 1, Grammar 1, Composition 1, Geography 1, Education 1, Botany 1, School Law 1, Natural History 1. How many teachers can show a better record? And to show that Mr. Boyle's high attainments in these subjects have borne legitimate fruit, I have it directly from G. W. Field, B.A., late Principal, and Mr. C. Macpherson, late Mathematical Master of the

Elora High School, that of all the scholars who entered that institution, Mr. Boyle's pupils were preëminently distinguished in the English branches by their general intelligence, due no doubt to the excellence of Mr. Boyle's teaching.

While Mr. Boyle has never proclaimed himself a "leading educator," he richly deserves the title; and those who have applied it to him are amply justified by the testimony of those best qualified to judge. But there is one phase of this question which must not be overlooked. The malicious attack on Mr. Boyle is a species of blackmailing on the teaching profession—a standing menace to every teacher in Canada. It says in effect: "Support the *Canada School Journal*, advocate the introduction of our precious publications, with all their imperfections, into the Public Schools, or we will show up your weak points, and blast your career as a teacher."

I do not appeal to Canadian teachers to resent this insult, being certain that they know what is due to themselves and to the profession: The just resentment which every teacher must feel has already discovered itself in the resolution passed by perhaps the only Teachers' Convention held since the publication of the disgraceful article, in which they strongly condemn the action of Gage & Co.

"Curses come home to roost" will doubtless be aptly illustrated in the consequences of this bitter personal attack. I have evidence, from all parts of the country, of the storm of indignation that it has evoked. Gage & Co. have awakened a sympathy for Mr. Boyle that perhaps he could never have created for himself; and his value as the agent of the Canada Publishing Company has been doubled. The Company no doubt feel this, and Mr. Boyle owes to Gage & Co. eternal gratitude.

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To the Editor of the C. E. Monthly.

SIR,—Is it not more than strange that Inspectors of Public Schools have not yet been favoured with copies of the last Report of the Minister of Education, or with even a single copy of the School Bill passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature? I am charged with the task of superintending the Public Schools of a large county, and I have received neither of the documents to which I have referred. Prominent and active politicians have received them from Members of Parliament.

Yours respectfully, X.