

purposes of higher education, there can be none whatever, as to the desirableness of having the tide of private benefactions turned in this direction. We know no use to which large sums of money could be devoted with assurance of better effect upon the social, intellectual and moral progress of the Dominion, than that of providing facilities for the thorough education of women, under proper conditions and influences. The princely gifts of individuals in the United States for this purpose are already bearing noble fruit and redounding to the best interests not only of the sex but of the nation. Rightly, or wrongly, the objections, or as many would say prejudices, against co-education are so deeply rooted, and the practical difficulties in the way of carrying out that method on an extensive scale are so many and great, that it is useless to hope to see women graduates going out by hundreds and thousands, as we should like to see them, until stronger inducements are offered. There is now a noble opportunity for private beneficence in Toronto. The man or men who should build and endow a thoroughly equipped Ladies' College in this city, to be affiliated with the University or otherwise, would not only hand down his name with honor to posterity but be the means of conferring perennial blessing upon the Province and the Dominion.

SCHOOL BOOK LEGISLATION.

The *Globe* reports the Minister of Education as saying in the course of a debate in the House of Assembly on Thursday:—

"There are objections to the alleged frequent changes in the text-books, but except in our Readers, I propose no immediate change. * * * It has been charged that we have authorized books in advance of their preparation, I simply intend in the future, as in the past, to announce that a book will be authorized at a certain date, and give eighteen months for dealers to get rid of their stocks, and the teachers to prepare for them. I want to say that this (Jeffers) is the only book authorized or intended to be authorized in Canadian history, and I hope to have a better English primer than any now authorized."

It is to be hoped in the interests of all concerned that these statements are correctly reported, and represent the settled policy of the Education Department. How they are to be reconciled with other statements alleged, on apparently good authority, to have been made by the Minister since his accession to office we are unable to guess. Mr. Ross will surely feel it his duty to protect parents and the public by the immediate prosecution of those publishers and others, who have announced new editions of various works, such as the "Orthoepest," as having the authorization of the Department. Surely the attempt to sell books by such announcements, he will regard as an attempt to get money under false pretences. The harmonizing of the last sentence of the quotation with the following from the "instructions" recently issued by the Department, is a still harder task:—

"History.—The outlines of English and Canadian History; how England, Canada, and Ontario are governed; the municipal institutions of Ontario—all as contained in a History Primer, to be authorized by the Education Department about August, 1885."

We give it up. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to find the clue to lead us out of the labyrinth.

It will be observed that the Minister does not directly deny the most damaging of all the charges, viz., that the Department has authorized, or promised authorization—he will not, of course, stoop to take refuge behind an ambiguity—to books in advance of their preparation, but such denial would be a natural inference from the language used. Teachers, parents, and the public will all breathe more freely when they learn that the Minister has not employed, and does not intend to employ amateur book makers to prepare Grammars, Geographies and other text-books, under his own personal supervision, to replace the standard books now in use, and that in every case all concerned will have at least a year and a half in which to examine a proposed new work before it can be forced upon them.

It would have been gratifying had Mr. Ross gone a little further, and assured us that it is all a mistake that he has any intention of attempting to bring about a uniform, "one-book" system. All will agree with him that it is "of the utmost importance that the live teacher should have the very best book in his hands, and that the thinking scholar should be brought into contact with the product of the ripest minds," though all may not be able to convince themselves that the Minister of Education for Ontario has any preternatural discernment or any infallible specific to enable him, and him alone, to determine, which of a large number of competitors may be the "very best book," or the "product of the ripest mind." If the much-talked-of one-book system, and the rumoured employment of this, that and the other *protégé* to produce the "ripest mind" product, are all the baseless fabrics of some romancer's vision, and no such ideas have ever entered the Ministerial brain; if he means to admit that teachers, inspectors and other scholars may have some opinions worth consideration, and has resolved to follow the common sense course of authorizing such books as may be put on the "best" list, after careful examination by the ripest minds amongst us, without attempting to squeeze the whole teaching profession, and all the "thinking scholars" into the narrow rut of a dogmatical and impracticable one-book system, why then we have only to regret having been so misled, and to wish him God speed in his good work. But will he not, in indulgence to dull brains please speak less ambiguously next time.

A horse requires at least 2,466 cubic feet of fresh air per hour. The English army regulations allow in new stables to each horse, 1,605 cubic feet, and 100 square feet of floor space.

"Ah!" sighed the sentimental Snozenbloom as he gazed upon the landscape, "ah, what is so old as the hills? The valleys, my dear," responded Mrs. S., and Snozenbloom looked disgusted.

A father was telling his little son about the wonders of modern science. "Look at astronomy, now; men have learned the distance of the stars, and, with their spectroscopes, what they are made of?" "Yes," said the boy, "and, pa, isn't it strange how they found out all their names?"

A writer in the Nineteenth Century says that the beautiful melody so generally attributed to Ireland. "The Girl I Left Behind Me," is of purely English origin, and was published in England long before it was first played in Ireland by the soldiers of William III.