

was overlooked in the selection of a Principal, but we have no sympathy with them when their complaint assumes a religious aspect. It is no fault of Mr. McCabe's that he is a Roman Catholic, neither is it any disqualification. On the other hand we would not for a moment presume to justify his appointment on religious grounds, and our system of education being presumably unsectarian, no religious preference should be recognized in connection with any of its official appointments.

We notice by a letter addressed by the venerable Chief Superintendent to the *Mail*, that it was part of the scheme for establishing additional Normal Schools that at least one Roman Catholic teacher should be appointed to the Ottawa School. Why any such arrangement should be made we fail to see. If there were any just grounds for dissatisfaction with the Toronto Normal School, because of its not maintaining a strictly non-sectarian character, or because of the impossibility of doing so, we would say at once that it was just and proper that such an evil should be guarded against in the case of the Ottawa School. We are not aware, however, that any offence was ever given on this score. We believe the Normal School education of Ontario has always been conducted on non-sectarian grounds, and why one creed should be guaranteed special privileges or receive special promises, is a mode of dealing with public matters unworthy of the advanced ideas entertained by the people of this country on educational matters.

So far as the remonstrance against Mr. McCabe, referring to his foreign origin is concerned, we believe it is entitled to some weight. Our Normal School has now been in operation nearly thirty years; some of the best men in the country have been trained within its walls; why not respect their applications and pay some deference to their claims? Is it to be supposed that a man trained under a foreign system of edu-

cation, an entire stranger to our school laws and the disposition of our people, can serve the country as well as a man who has graduated from our own schools and colleges? Is it not quite clear that Mr. McCabe, no matter how competent in other respects, and of that we have no doubt, must devote considerable time to acquire that knowledge which others educated in our own schools already possessed? We would not for a moment be understood as despising foreign schools or foreign scholars; neither would we overlook home production. If our educational system is capable of doing for us what we imagine and often say it has done, it should in a quarter of a century at least be able to furnish us with a sufficient number of men competent to fill such a position as the Principalship of a Normal School. Other things being equal, local talent should have the preference, and on these grounds we sympathise to a certain extent with the remonstrance of the Ottawa Teachers' Association.

—The suggestion made by the Chief Superintendent to submit our Text Books to a Committee of Teachers for revision is, in our opinion, a good one. There is no person so competent to decide what is adapted to the minds of children, as those who are engaged in the work of teaching. Being able to speak from experience, they speak with authority. There is certainly a great deal of unsuitable matter in the most of our Readers. In some of them there is a great deal of twaddle also, and their expurgation would be a great boon to the profession. Could teachers of long experience and good professional standing be chosen, and the present Text Books handed over to them, with instructions to eliminate such matter as was unsuitable and supply its place with something better, much additional interest would be given to the work of the teacher. No professor, no literary *savant*, can do this