

Canadian and patriotic in its tone. "An Historical Night in the old Canadian Parliament," by Mr. Watson, is an interesting statement of facts, written apparently without party bias. In the February number we have "The Canadian Census of 1871," by Mr. Harvey. This paper, though written in a good spirit, is somewhat premature in its appearance, and discusses the question *ex parte*. Mr. Tache has published a rejoinder to it, in which he disputes the accuracy of the statement that the census of 1861 was taken in one day, or that it was taken on the *de facto* principle, as alleged, or on the *de jure* principle, which was adopted in taking the census of 1871. He also combats various other statements of the writer. "The Recent Struggle in the Parliament of Ontario" is a judicious and impartial sketch of much interest. The writer has, we think fairly put the case for and against the combatants in the struggle, and has, in our opinion, correctly pointed out the mistakes which arise, as much from the newness of the House as from the novelty of the situation, and other causes. The literary articles in both numbers are generally speaking good, and some are of special excellence. There is one expression on page 187, which we think open to misapprehension, if not objection. The writer says, "while the Gospel is still sacred, &c." The word "still" which we have italicized, would seem to indicate a coming time when the Gospel would not continue to be "sacred in the eyes of millions." This we trust was not the meaning of the writer. We heartily wish the magazine great success, and trust that the enterprising publishers will persevere in their patriotic and laudable efforts to produce a truly national periodical, calm and philosophic in its discussions of public questions, instructive and entertaining in its literary articles, and in its general tone, character, and objects, truly "racy of the soil."\*

—THE DOMINION MONTHLY.—We have from time to time noticed the appearance of this valuable and interesting magazine, and have frequently made extracts from it. "Miss Macpherson's work among the little ones," in the January number, is a most interesting sketch. Which we insert in this number of our Journal. We trust the "Monthly" will have a wide circulation in the "New Dominion."

—ART OF TEACHING SCHOOL.—Philadelphia: J. M. Stoddart & Co., Toronto: Adam, Stevenson & Co. This seems an excellent "Manual of Suggestions." Hon. H. C. Hickok, late Superintendent of the State of Pennsylvania, whom we know to be a man of sound judgment and experience, thus speaks of the book:—"It is bold, (and in a good sense) radical and revolutionary; striking out with dogmatic, but, in the main, well-directed sagacity and independence, for a sounder educational policy and rational subjects and methods of instruction, and is therefore conservative, in the truest, best meaning of that term. Its publication will be hailed with infinite satisfaction by many clear-sighted and conscientious teachers in all parts of the country, who are painfully conscious that more and better should and can be accomplished in an elementary common school course, if fewer husks and less dead-wood and weary routine were imposed upon them by the school authorities, and greater intellectual activity and mental freedom permitted for themselves and their pupils. It will doubtless be very unwelcome to mere 'school-keepers,' whose attainments and experience extend little, if any, beyond the plodding tow-path of memorized recitations from the printed page."

\*NOTE.—Since the above was written, we have noticed that the publishers of the magazine have appended to the 3rd No. a petty attack on the Educational Depository, and even threatened the Council of Public Instruction, with an addition of "one or more members of the *Book Trade*, of business capacity, *disinterested mercenarily*," etc. The Department is ready and willing at any time to meet a fair and honourable inquiry into its proceedings; but that the publishers of a magazine of the character and pretensions of the one we have just noticed should descend to slander and vilification to promote their own "disinterested" objects of trade is painful in the extreme. When the proper time comes we shall meet these maligners and show, at least to the satisfaction of the public, that the real trouble with such "disinterested" gentlemen is the low prices of the books in the Depository which is a standing source of trouble, irritation and annoyance to them. (*See page 18.*)

—CUTTER'S SECOND BOOK ON ANATOMY.—Philadelphia: J. B. Lipincott & Co. Toronto: Adam, Stevenson & Co. This is a new edition of a popular book by Dr. Cutter, whose "First Lessons" have been approved for use in High Schools of the Province. This would be a valuable book of reference for teachers, who may be preparing for examination as First and Second-Class Public School Teachers. The First Book is prescribed for them, but the perusal of this book would greatly aid them in their preparation.

## XI Departmental Notices.

### NEW SCHOOL MANUAL.

In answer to continual inquiries on the subject of a new School Manual we would say, that an Act to the following effect having recently passed the Legislature, it is not thought desirable to publish a School Manual at present, especially as such a Manual ought to include in it the official regulations to which the recent Act refers. The provisions of this Act are that:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor shall have power [until the end of the next ensuing session of the Legislature] to cause inquiry to be made into the working of any rules, regulations, or instructions which have been, or may be made or issued by the Council of Public Instruction, or by the Chief Superintendent of Education, and to abrogate, suspend, or modify any such rules, regulations, or instructions."

We would state that the whole of the School Law and the general official regulations will be found in this Journal for May and June, 1871. Copies of these journals, when published, were sent by mail and addressed to each school corporation in Ontario. An extra number of copies was published on Depository account. The two numbers can, therefore, be sent by mail from the Depository, free of postage, on receipt of twenty-five cents.

### "ADEQUATE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS."

In answer to numerous inquiries as to the law relating to school accommodation, we desire to state that the second section of the School Act of 1871 declares that:—

"Each school corporation (in a city, town, village or rural school section) shall provide adequate accommodations for all the children of school age (from five to sixteen years, resident) in their school division or municipality."

The regulations which define what "adequate school accommodations" are being only recommendatory at present, each trustee corporation must, in the mean time, exercise a wise discretion and judgment in the matter. These regulations suggest a medium or minimum amount of school accommodation to be provided, as compared with the law and regulations on the subject in other countries. Although the law, as quoted above, is *imperative*, yet inspectors will exercise a judicious discrimination in enforcing it. In no case should it be enforced without a report on the facts being sent to the Department. A reasonable time should, in all cases, be given, and the ability and circumstances of each school concerned should be taken into account.

## SCHOOL LAW LECTURES.—Part I.

The Law and Official Regulations relating to Public School Trustees in Rural Sections—Public School Meetings—Selection of School Sites—Erection of School Houses—Levying Rates—Collectors—School Auditors—Arbitrations—Awards—Non-residents—Public School Teachers—Relation of Inspectors to Teachers—Duties of Pupils—Terms and Vacations—Examination of Teachers—Superannuation Fund, &c.,

*With Decisions of the Superior Courts thereon:*

Being the substance of Lectures to Normal School Students, by J. GEORGE HODGINS, ESQ., LL.D., Barrister-at-Law,  
Price, 50 cts.: Free by post, 55 cts. The Trade supplied. Send orders to  
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