

of the people and the unassuming, the puissant pretensions of the Dominion among the nations of the earth. This it is which is drawing Old England towards her Canada, and upon this the philosopher is basing his calculations of the span of the sovereign existence of the race. In a particular manner should this be brought home to the impressionable mind of the Canadian nation, i.e., through the

teachings of the Public School. Train the nation, the children of the people, O Teacher, to a true appreciation of that which they are—the flower of the race; point to the nations of the earth which are assembling like a great cloud of witnesses to watch what the young Dominion will do, and declare to them with authority that Canada expects every man to do his duty.

COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY.

BY PROFESSOR H. G. SEELEY, F.R.S.

A DEMAND for Commercial Geography has originated of late years with Chambers of Commerce, which have pressed the subject on the attention of schoolmasters. The Chambers of Commerce represent the requirements of employers of such material as schoolmasters may be able to send them; and in concert these two bodies framed regulations by which commercial geography entered into the school curriculum and became an examination subject for various appointments. The tender age at which the junior teaching was to be received by the pupil, precluded the possibility of commercial geography being regarded as a higher branch of geographical attainment, and, therefore, it was not possible that it should be based upon its natural foundations of Physical Geography so as to insure training in the methods of thinking concerning the influence of physical phenomena upon the earth's products and peoples, and the means which the earth's surface affords for conveying raw material or manufactured goods from one region to another. The subject abounds in technicalities. It is necessary that these

difficulties to the pupil should be dissipated by excess of knowledge in the teacher, which will remove their technical character in a copious familiarity with facts. But any such conception or effort is obviously beyond the work which may be fairly expected from school children, and yet nothing short of it can be effective mental training, because it is rather the memory than the understanding which is then cultivated.

Commercial geography comprises three principal departments of knowledge:—First, practical knowledge of the natures and sources of all the different kinds of raw material which the earth produces, in so far as the substances, mineral, vegetable or animal, have a commercial value. Secondly, detailed knowledge of the manufactured products which, with varying degrees of skill, are obtained from the raw materials, in the several regions in which they are manufactured. And, thirdly, there is knowledge of the distributive industries by which these manufactured goods reach diverse peoples. But the balance between these three prime divisions of commercial geography is affected by