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## Trinity University Review.

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## Editorial Topics.

ALMOST  
PERSUADED.

If there is one thing more than another that we Canadians pride ourselves upon it is our national system of education—especially in the opinions of the good people of Ontario—where this Province is concerned. For anyone to venture to criticize the educational system of Ontario, is at once to expose himself not only to the finest description of fine scorn, but to the finest description of fine abuse. Therefore, for a prominent member of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition in the Local Parliament of this flourishing Province, to rise in his place in the House and boldly remark that, perhaps, the very highest wisdom was not shown in the distribution of the educational fund; that, at the expense of the State, Ontario was turning out too many professional men, and that the great majority of these men were not drawn from the lower ranks, but from the ranks quite capable of educating their own sons and daughters without taxing the people generally for that education. Indeed, from reading this gentleman's wise and interesting speech, we are inclined to think that he was almost persuaded to declare that the State should confine its attention to the public schools and leave higher and professional education to private enterprise and the churches. We may, of course, be mistaken in our interpretation, but as he is a man who seems to see straight, and to think clearly, we may presume that we have not hit very wide of the mark, if at all. The High Schools have an average attendance of

10,798; the public schools an average attendance of 253,943. The High Schools receive over nine dollars per capita on their average attendance, whilst the public schools receive but one dollar per capita. That is, the people of Ontario pay nine times as much in proportion to attendance for their High schools as they do for their public schools—the schools which alone are used by the great mass of the people. Add to this the fat endowments in land and money lavished upon the Provincial University, and it will be seen that the sums taken from the people for the purposes of higher education are of no mean proportions. At present it tickles the ears of the multitude to be told that in this free and enlightened Province an university education is possible for all alike; that no distinction is made between rich and poor. But by-and-by the multitude will awake to the fact that an insignificant fraction of their number reach even the High School, to say nothing of the University, and that they are contributing their hard-earned dollars towards educating the families of the wealthy. Then the multitude will rise up in wrath and make a fuss about it, and the Ontario educational system will forthwith undergo some vigorous and radical alterations. They will take care to see that the educational fund is bestowed on the common schools, and that these schools are properly equipped and presided over by competent masters. It is on elementary education that the State should concentrate its resources. Only a limited number of people after all are fitted for superior education. The limitations of nature must occasionally be considered. To educate a man just enough to give him a distaste for the farm or the life of the artisan, is neither to promote the interests of the State nor the interests of the individual himself. The only result is to swell the already overcrowded ranks of the clerks, and depopulate the rural districts. But the lowliest in the land can at least learn to read and write, and imbibe some technical instructions calculated to qualify him for some useful trade or occupation, and to have this done in the best and most thorough way is the legitimate business of the State. Beyond a sound elementary education it is not in our opinion the province of the State to proceed. It is obviously not the province of the State to train doctors and lawyers and other professional men.

LABOUR  
JOURNALISM.

It is to be regretted that the class of papers published in the interests of the working people—papers which are of great usefulness when wisely conducted—should so often fall into the hands of men qualified neither by sound principle nor discreet understanding for their responsible and influential office. If labouring people derive their notions of things, social and political, from the labour journals received by us it is not much to be wondered at if envy and malice and all uncharitableness should be found smouldering in the breasts of the labourers. The workingman has no warmer friends than ourselves, but we presume that he, like other human beings, has duties to perform as well as rights to demand; yet, of these duties we read never a word, whilst the rights are writ large all over the page. Most of the screeds of these papers would be unworthy the notice of the educated were it not for the harm they do to the ignorant and foolish amongst the class to which they