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PATRIOTISM IN THE SCHOOLS.

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The suggestion that patriotism should be taught in the public schools, as if it were a separate branch of study, seems to involve a somewhat narrow conception of patriotism and a defective appreciation of the work of the teaching profession. All the work of the school is patriotic in the broadest sense ; or at least it is patriotic when well done and unpatriotic when ill done. The development of natural resources is a familiar topic of patriotic addresses ; and surely no part of our natural resources is so important as the children who are to be the citizens and the home makers of Canada. A natural preference for one's own country is of course an element of patriotism ; but this is only the beginning. We must inquire into the basis of that preference ; and we must see to it that the foundation is broad and strong.

Suppose that a Canadian were asked why he preferred his own country to Russia, he would be able to say something more than that he happened to be born in Canada. This country is free ; its laws are made by a Parliament

electd by the people ; he can read what he pleases and utter his thoughts freely, except when public opinion itself becomes a tyrant. As compared with other countries, he would base his patriotism on the observance of law and order, safety to person and property, the sanitary condition of cities and towns, the progress of industrial arts, the educational system of the country. In a word, he would stake his country's reputation on its civilization. And this is well ; but patriotism must not stop here if it is not to degenerate into mere conceit. To fight for one's country is a duty : to praise it is a pleasure ; but above all, it is important to make it a country worthy to be fought for, worthy of praise.

If this is conceded, the most effective way of teaching patriotism in the schools is to insist that all good honest work is patriotic ; the work of the school, and the work of life, however humdrum and humble it may appear to be. If it is patriotic to feel pride in our educational system, it is surely a still higher and more useful form of patriotism to say " Let us,