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The Canada School Journal

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL HAS RECEIVED

*An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1878.
Recommended by the Minister of Education for Ontario.
Recommended by the Council of Public Instruction, Quebec.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, New Brunswick.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, British Columbia.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Manitoba.*

The Publishers frequently receive letters from their friends complaining of the non-receipt of the JOURNAL. In explanation they would state, as subscriptions are necessarily payable in advance, the mailing clerks have instructions to discontinue the paper when a subscription expires. The clerks are, of course unable to make any distinction in a list containing names from all parts of the United States and Canada.

TRADE ORGANISM AND POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP.

The rumored approach of a general election for the Province of Ontario has called forth a more than usually atrabilious outpouring from that petulant and egotistical school, yclept the *Educational Monthly*. That we have attributed the comments in its July August number to the correct cause is apparent from internal evidence, but we have not to depend on this testimony alone. Those who are engaged in converting the attacks on the Education Department into a partisan political crusade have not even sense enough to keep their mouths shut while their pens are in operation. They have always "talked" and "talked," until giving themselves and their fellow-conspirators away has become a matter of common occurrence. During the recent provincial convention it was publicly stated by one speaker that the *Educational Monthly* was, according to the boasts of its conductors, to indicate the line of attack on the Government and "form one of the first elements in the coming campaign," and his statement was allowed to go uncontradicted.

We appeal to fair minded educationists all over the province whether this is the proper course for a journal pretending to be educational to pursue, and whether an alleged "educational" journal pursuing such a course is worthy of their support. There are thousands of teachers and trustees utterly averse to seeing our noble educational system made a party football, and these, without reference to party predilections or associations, will frown down any attempt that is fraught with such danger to the highest interests of the public.

While we do not consider our educational system perfect and are often compelled to differ from the Minister on matters of policy, there can be no doubt that the system itself is an admirable one and that in the main the changes made from time to time are in the right direction. But what opinion of both the system and the mode of administering it, would a foreigner from

reading only the *Monthly* entertain? He would come to the conclusion that the cultured and courteous gentleman who presides over the Department is a born fool at once incorrigible and corrupt. That this language is not too strong can easily be shown from the pen-and-ink sketch of him in the *Monthly*. He "has no command of the resources of a great public man;" he is "anomalously compounded of capriciousness and political partisanship;" "it is not unreasonable to look with apprehension upon any organic change in the Departmental Regulations he may wish to originate;" "his knowledge of the working of our school system is derived at second hand," some of his proposed amendments "commend themselves to common sense," but for these he deserves no credit, as he took the ideas without credit from the *Monthly*, "in the proposed regulations nothing original is good and nothing good is original;" he is "dominated by his official importance," and his volition is "controlled by political bias or professional intrigue;" he is too much given to "dalliance with the affairs of his office," and when he becomes active he displays "an unhappy proneness to mixing and muddling, with the occasional accessory of a scandal;" "his regulations are persistently ignored by his subordinates who trust for immunity to personal and political influence or to their master's well known inaptitude," he is "wanting in sensitiveness of apprehension," and is lacking in "sympathy with the teacher and his work;" his connection with our school system "clogs and discredits it," and the official correspondence of the Department is a "record of weakness and vacillation," "his wordy flatulence is only equalled by his pretentious ignorance," and "his political partisanship is a public scandal," "the Department can command neither confidence nor respect, and the whole system suffers with it," he is not "of course entirely responsible for the low tone of the profession"—rather hard on the profession—"or for the laches of idle youths who under the pressure of the intermediate would rather prig than cram, but he cannot be entirely absolved "while his partizan administration continually enfeebles the sense of honor and of responsibility throughout the schools, and while his intellectual indigence and infirm executive make bureaucracy a laughing stock and centralization a scorn," he ought to give way to some one who "could direct our school machinery with impartiality and judgment;" at present "the business of the Department" is not "properly attended to," and "favoritism is shown where favoritism is vicious."

We will not do those who indulge in such comments the injustice of imputing to them any belief in what they are saying. This mode of writing is due partly to the force of confirmed habit, as in the case of Mrs. Caudle or Mr. Spoopendyke, and partly to a deliberate intention to secure a change of Departmental management by a change of Government. To describe the language as unbecoming would be to praise it; such an outflowing of venom would disgrace the ordinary political journals who, however they may have to differ from Mr. Crooks, at least treat him, as he invariably treats his oppon-