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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.

The CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL is read by a gratifyingly large proportion of the Teachers of the Dominion. We cannot conceive of the Conductors of a public Journal ministering to the literary tastes and professional aims of a worthier class of readers. We aid, we trust with some degree of effectiveness, in a work of immense magnitude and importance, a work none the less grand and momentous because its processes are often silent and imperceptible. To promise for such a constituency as ours a suitable variety of Educational aliment involves more labour and care than would at first appear. Our task would be easy if we were the heralds of some particular reform, the champions of some specific idea, or institution, or hobby. Still easier would it be did we play the part of an indiscriminate critic, or faultfinder, a regular *ensor morum* in every thing pertaining to Education. Ours is the nobler, but more difficult duty of providing wholesome but stimulating nutriment for the great teaching staff of the Dominion, supplementing other means of professional instruction, bringing the Educational thought and effort of the West and the East together, in short, making the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL the instrument through which, both the philosophy and the history of Canadian Education shall find expression.

"QUESTIONABLE ADVERTIZING" FOR PUPILS."

We have on several occasions called attention to the fact that some Collegiate Institutes were, by advertizing circulars, magazines, and agents, endeavouring to draw the best students from all parts of the Province to their classes. We regarded such practices with alarm, as they could evidently lead to but one result; the destruction of our general system of High Schools throughout the Province, and the building up in its stead of a few large institutions. A result so calamitous as this we have striven to prevent, and we are much gratified to note that the results of the various examinations this year have fully sustained our contention, that as good, and in many cases better work was done in the smaller High Schools, than in those

more pretentious Institutions which were endeavouring to make capital for themselves at the expense of the other Institutes and High Schools.

The illustrations of this fact are abundant. At the University examination, many of the High Schools stood proudly at the top beside, the best of the Collegiate Institutes. In the Intermediate examinations the results were even more notably in favour of the smaller schools, as will be seen by an examination of the results which we publish in another column.

There is no more striking instance of this than that afforded by a comparison of two schools in the same district. The City of Hamilton has surrendered the whole of its once excellent public school system to the principal of the Collegiate Institute. The direct aim of the efficient public school staff of that city is now to fit their pupils for passing the Entrance Examination to the Collegiate Institute. The pupils attend very regularly, the teachers work faithfully, and Mr. Dickson therefore gets good material, and what is of vast importance, he receives his pupils at an early age. It must also be remembered that, in order by one stroke of policy to secure a yielding subordinate and a county assistant in gathering pupils, Mr. Dickson opposed the appointment of eligible Hamilton men, and favoured the appointment of the Inspector of Wentworth to the nominal position of Inspector of Hamilton. The other High Schools of Wentworth know too well how the brightest students have been swept from their vicinities to Hamilton. Notwithstanding these unequalled privileges, and the unique methods of advertizing for good students which Mr. Dickson adopted, his school only succeeded in passing 24 candidates. The small village of Caledonia, a few miles from Hamilton, passed 23 candidates. Comment is unnecessary.

It is not the number passed, but the number "plucked," that decides the inefficiency of a school. The fact that a school like that in Strathroy passes 18 out of 21, while Hamilton only passes 24 out of 89 is clear proof of the soundness of our advice to those who seek higher education, "be true to the institutions of your own district."

It is only reasonable to expect that without the aid of the agent at teachers' conventions these contrasts will be even more striking in the future, unless the Hamilton School Board reforms the anomalous system of schools now in existence in their city. Whatever may be said of a union between High and Public School Boards, there seems to be no good result from placing the control of the Public Schools in the hands of a High School Master, if he is unacquainted with Public School work.

The High School Masters' Section of the Ontario Teachers Association passed a resolution at their late meeting condemning what they named "questionable advertizing." This must not be understood to mean making announcements of the facilities afforded by schools for the various classes of students, which is of course proper and commendable.