

is worth taking out of the post office ! Now, there happens to be an English gentleman farmer resident near the same post office—a man of education and refinement—James H. Covernton, Esq., who has been School Superintendent of the same township for several years. In one of his reports incidentally alluding to the *Journal of Education*, Mr. Covernton says :—"I venture to suggest that much good might result, if the attention of parents and trustees were called to this matter [teaching needle-work to girls in schools taught by female teachers] through the columns of the *Journal of Education*—which paper, by the by, is very generally received, read, and appreciated, the few instances to the contrary being, I fear, occasions where a degree of supineness prevails, which would not be remedied by the stated transmission of the *Journal* through me, instead of through the accustomed source."—the post office.

"In the Appendix to my annual school reports will be found numerous incidental references to the *Journal of Education* in the extracts from the reports of Local Superintendents. I have some twenty of them before me from different Municipalities, and from as many different individuals (Local Superintendents) who have had the best means of information. I will give a few specimens out of the many :—1. "The *Journal of Education* is a welcome visitor." 2. "The *Journal of Education* is a welcome visitor wherever it goes." 3. "The *Journal of Education* is regularly received in all the sections, and is highly appreciated." 4. "The *Journal of Education* is thankfully received, and its valuable information very much appreciated." 5. "The *Journal of Education* is regularly received in this township, and is of great service in the cause of education throughout the Province." 6. "It has been read by all, and with much pleasure and profit, and is a great means of diffusing interesting knowledge amongst the people. In fact, I look upon it as one of the best papers published." 7. "The *Journal of Education* is welcome, and is a haven of good wherever it goes."

"I will not multiply such testimonial statements ; but will remark that the *Journal of Education* has never been intended or permitted to be the vehicle of personal or even school law controversy of any kind, in regard either to myself or others, but to be the repository, as far as possible, of the best passages from the best educational addresses of public men, and educational articles in reviews of books of both England and America, an adviser in matters of school instruction and education, and a record of facts most interesting and suggestive in regard to the educational progress of the age. To provide and arrange such material requires vastly more labour, judgment and research, than to fill the pages of the *Journal* with long and readless essays, and endless and pointless speeches and discussions. From the following list of standing headings or departments in the *Journal of Education* from month to month it will be seen what is the range, scope, and character of the articles inserted in each number of the *Journal*: 1. *Papers on Education in Ontario*. 2. *Papers on Education in other countries*. 3. *Papers on Practical Education*. 4. *Papers on Classical Education*. (occasional). 5. *Papers on Geographical (or Scientific) Subjects*. 6. *Papers on Teachers (or Teaching)*. 7. *Monthly Report on Meteorology in Ontario*. 8. *Biographical Sketches*. 9. *Papers on Historical (or Colonial) Subjects*. 10. *Miscellaneous Friday Readings*. 11. *Educational Intelligence*. 12. *Departmental Notices, etc.*

"*Inter-Communications in the Journal of Education*.—In order that nothing might be wanting of local interest, as well as of general educational intelligence in the *Journal of Education*, the following has been a standing printed notice in its columns for some years :

"As already intimated, a department is always reserved in the *Journal of Education* for letters and inter-communications between Local Superintendents, School Trustees and Teachers, on any subject of general interest relating to education in the Province. As no personal or party discussions have, ever since the establishment of the *Journal*, appeared in its columns, no letter or communication partaking of either character can be admitted to its pages ; but, within this salutary restriction, the utmost freedom is allowed. Long letters are not desirable ; but terse and pointed communications of moderate length on school management, discipline, progress, teaching or other subject of general interest are always acceptable, and may be made highly useful in promoting the great object for which this *Journal* was established."

"*Alternative*.—But if after all this, 5,000 copies of the *Journal of Education*, printed, folded, enveloped, addressed and sent to all the School Corporations, and other school officers of the country, are not worth \$1,800, that is, 36 cents per volume, let the publication of it be discontinued.

Hon. Henry Barnard's Opinion of the Journal of Education.

I will conclude by adducing the opinion of a foreigner who has read the *Journal of Education* from the beginning—of the acknowledged Nestor of American Educationists—the Hon. Henry Bar-

nard, LL.D., who has written and published several large volumes on the Normal School, and Educational Institutions of Europe ; who has edited and published for a number of years the *American Quarterly Journal of Education*, containing as much matter as any of the English Quarterly Reviews ; who has been Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State of Connecticut for many years, and by special request organized a system of public instruction for one of the Western States ; and who, on the creation of a National Bureau of Education at Washington two years since, was appointed to preside over it as Commissioner, in order to diffuse educational information throughout the United States, and bring the various State systems of education, as far as possible, into a national unity. Dr. Barnard, in a letter addressed to my Department last year, suggests and remarks as follows :—

"Why do you not have a minute topical index prepared to your *Journal of Education*, from Vol. I. to XXI? It is so full of the history, the principles, the methodology, the biography, and literature generally of schools and education. Such an index will make your sets valuable, not only to your own scholars, teachers and statesmen, but to educationists everywhere. It is a monument of intelligent and practical editorship."

Few people, who have had no experience in the matter, can realize how exceedingly difficult it is to edit a paper well. Those who have had most experience in such matters freely admit the difficulty, and have sought to lay down some general rules on the subject. These we have endeavoured to follow, but we have never consented to be the organ or mouth-piece of any party, or of any person.

We now give the following report of a conversation in the House of Assembly on the subject :—

On the vote of \$1,800 for the *Journal of Education*,

"Mr. BLAKE said he had hoped, after the debate on this item last year, that it would have been struck from the Estimates. It had not been shown that it was of any use to the country. The matter which was published in it would be much more widely circulated if published in any good newspaper. He hoped the Government would have it struck from the Estimates. If not, he would propose a motion to that effect when the items were brought up for concurrence.

"Attorney-General MACDONALD said that the expense of sending the notices to the local press of the Province, and the cost of the advertisements, would in a year amount to a greater cost than the expense of printing and mailing the *Journal* itself. There was an intention on the part of the Government to discontinue the publication of the *Journal*, but in consequence of the information they had received, they had reconsidered their determination, and resolved to continue the publication of the *Journal*.

"Mr. BLAKE said that the *Journal of Education* was for the teachers, and the notices contained in it could be sent by circular. The alternative of the hon. Attorney-General between the advertising in the local press, and of printing and mailing education notices together, a lot of useless matters, but the notices could be easily sent without the expense incurred in the printing of this *Journal*. He thought such being the case, that it would be difficult to find an argument in favour of the *Journal of Education*.

"Mr. MONTEITH said if there was one thing in the Estimates which was more unnecessary than another, it was the vote of \$1,800 for the *Journal of Education*.

Mr. McCALL (Norfolk), said that he had moved last year that the item be struck out, and he had understood from the Government that the *Journal* would be discontinued, and he was surprised at seeing the item in the Estimates.

"Mr. PERRY thought that the publishing of the *Journal* was money thrown away, and that not one out of every two read it. He would advise the striking of the item out of the Estimates.

"Mr. BEATTY could not recollect that there had been any promise made that this periodical should be discontinued. The teachers needed information. They had questions to discuss, and the *Journal* supplied the want. He did not think the people generally thought the work was not wanted. He could not agree with gentlemen who were making a crusade against it.

"Mr. WILSON said the *Journal* was read in his neighbourhood, and he would be sorry to see it away.

"Dr. BAXTER reads the *Journal* with great pleasure and profit. The editorial department, it was true, might be better conducted ; but, as a whole, the continuance of the *Journal* was desirable.

"Dr. BOULTER was also in favour of the *Journal*.