

EDITORIAL NOTES.

READING.

Teachers should use their influence to guide their pupils in newspaper reading. The writer was informed by an Examiner who read some hundreds of answer-papers in composition, sent in at the recent Entrance Examination, that by far the majority of the papers, in answer to the question requiring a description of some recent event, gave the loathly particulars of one or other of the awful murders which have occurred in Ontario this year. There was one notable exception. At one centre a number of pupils, evidently taught by the same teacher, gave interesting accounts of the opening of the Kiel Canal. How much good that teacher has done by simply occupying well the children's minds. Who will give us newspapers whose pages are not filled with accounts that suggest evil thoughts and so tend to weaken the moral nature and perpetuate crime? But we can at least, and in the meantime, interest the children in something worth thinking of.

BE TOLERANT AND FREE.

No people who have had the advantages of the Bible and its teaching will ever consent to forego these advantages in the up-bringing of their children. This we take to be self-evident. The form in which this essential element of instruction, supplied in its best form by the Bible alone, is to be made effectual in the education of our children, must, in the last analysis, be decided by the parents. For ages the parents' will was expressed and carried into effect by the great organization called the

Church. As civilization became more complex, it became necessary, in many countries, to attempt to divide the work of teaching.

The cleavage proposed is—The Church to give special prominence to the morals and the spiritualities; the schools, controlled by the other great organization of men, called the state, to matters relating to this world. We must not forget that these two great organizations are for the good of men. And many men hold that both proceed from the same source of authority, and power, viz.: God. We think that here we may safely add, that, as the evolution of the schools controlled by the state has proceeded, it has been found, that wherever the teaching and authority of the Bible have been ignored, the effect has been very unsatisfactory as regards the character of the rising generation and therefore injurious to the people. Hence the conflict that is continually going on concerning the public schools of a country.

In our humble opinion, the question is entirely for the people. It is not for any party government to decide. If it be brought at all into Parliament, the Parliament as such, should settle the question, and every government should treat it as an open question. Canada is not without precedent in such a case, it being postulated, as a primary condition, that every avenue for information be looked into and ample time be taken for consideration and reflection.

In Canada we are one people, we must be united on all vital questions, involving the very life of the people socially, as that of education does. We must be a free and tolerant people, loyal to the Empire,