

know anything of Mr. Smith's honesty of purpose and his sturdy independence. It is true that the Hamilton school system is under the direction of a United School Board, and that it avails itself, in the inspection of the City Public Schools, of the services of the Inspector of the County. That this arrangement, which obviously has many advantages, and we believe has worked satisfactorily, should be prejudicial to other High Schools in the County, or be detrimental to its educational interests, we shall want the assurance of a higher and more disinterested authority than the *School Journal* before we believe it. At present, it suits the *Journal's* selfish purpose to decry the arrangement, to depreciate the work of the Hamilton Institute, and to awaken distrust of both Principal and Inspector, whom it charges with acting collusively, though each official has his own distinct and well-defined duties prescribed for him by an intelligent and sagacious School-Board. To the dispassionate onlooker, particularly if he is acquainted with the facts, it will seem strange to find a journal declaiming against the injury to one school, as the result of "questionable advertising," while by the use of similar methods it is at the same time doing all it can to injure another. The anomaly, however, is susceptible of explanation, and is to be found in the simple fact (let us speak low) that in the Hamilton Schools they do not use the text-books of the publisher of the organ that defames them. Need we say a word more?

#### ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY AND MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.

EMERSON'S aphorism, "God taunts the mighty land with little men," almost unconsciously occurs to one on learning that some mental pigmies, at a meeting the other evening of the St. George's Society of Toronto, had rejected a motion to elect Prof. Goldwin Smith an honorary member, on account of his holding certain opinions respecting the future destiny of Canada. The affair is almost too ridiculous for discussion, but it might be worth while reminding these super-loyal

St. Georgites that their society exists for benevolent and humane purposes and<sup>1</sup> not for jingo propagandism, and that if certain of its members want to do knightly service in the cause of Canada they had better do battle with the dragon of Party in their midst than go out of their way to gratuitously insult an estimable, unoffending private gentleman. It is not a little curious to note that while these "tailors of Tooley Street" were making such a pitiful exhibition of themselves, the object of their ill-nature was being accorded the honour of election to the presidency of a section of the Social Science Congress at Dublin, and had just declined the high compliment of being asked to accept the mastership of University College, Oxford—tributes not undeserved to the worth and scholarly repute of this distinguished English gentleman who yet prefers to call himself a Canadian.

#### THE ILLNESS OF DR. RYERSON.

IT is with unfeigned regret that we learn of the serious indisposition of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, the venerable ex-Chief Superintendent of Education, whose advancing years forbid us to indulge the expectation that he can long continue to be in our midst, while they the more keenly remind us of his many past services to the country, in the important and responsible post with which his name and his work is honourably associated. We are sure that every one of our readers will learn of this announcement with deep regret, and all will be very solicitous about his condition and will gladly hail more favourable news. In extending our sympathy to the distinguished gentleman, and in wishing him still further length of years, each individual member of the teaching profession, of the Province at least, we are confident, will join with us. There is no one connected with education in Ontario to whom the hearts of those engaged in teaching more warmly go out than to Dr. Ryerson. His recovery will hence be heartily prayed for, and should death overtake him, his loss, we know, will be profoundly deplored.