

Association the assistance you have rendered us, especially by your thoughtful papers on English Literature and other kindred subjects of Higher English, has proved invaluable to us in our daily labors in the school-room. It is therefore with sincere pleasure that we bear testimony to your skill as a teacher, to your ability as an author, and to the genuine interest you have taken in advancing the interests of the teaching profession.

Your works in connection with the cause of literary culture have brought your name prominently before many who have not the privilege we enjoy,—the pleasure of your personal acquaintance. While we cannot forbear expressing our deep regret that our profession has lost one of its brightest ornaments, we learn with sincere pleasure that your future prospects are of the most promising kind. Permit us then to express the wish that your highest hopes may be realized in your chosen vocation, that you may be long spared to enjoy the reward of your labors, and that though no longer one of us, you may ever look back with pleasant memories upon the time you have spent in our educational institutions.

Signed on behalf of the members of the Wentworth Teachers' Association.

W. H. BALLARD, M. A.,  
*President.*  
J. G. CARRUTHERS,  
*Secretary.*  
J. H. SMITH,  
*P. S. Inspector.*

#### REPLY.

FELLOW TEACHERS.—It is peculiarly grateful to me to receive this token of respect from my old associates in the noble profession

of education ; but in listening to the eulogistic terms of the address, I feel how far I am from deserving half the praise that has been bestowed on me. At this moment I have all my past failures vividly present to my mind, and I can see that what I once thought was the failure of the pupils was mostly the failure of the teacher. I am happy to know, however, that the methods of instruction are continually improving, owing to the great advancement in the science of education. That science and profession will always have a large place in my thoughts, as indeed a profession dealing in the delights of literature, the deep things of science and the lofty aspirations of philosophy, must have in the minds of all intelligent thinkers. While I am happy to watch the strides in advance made by our educational system, I am not blind to some of its defects and mistakes. Perhaps I might be pardoned a few words on the latter. I consider the system of inspectorship is not the best that could be desired ; the area is too large, the amount of good done by the visits of the inspector is at a minimum. Smaller districts would enable the inspector to make more frequent calls on the schools, and thus benefit the teacher by his presence. This would entail a greater outlay on the public schools, but it is only right that they should get it. Our programmes are too extensive and varied, our examinations are too exacting, there is too much tendency to uniformity, at the expense of the individual aptness of the teacher, a tendency that might make our schools into mere machines. I feel, however, that here is not the place to discuss these subjects. I have to thank you sincerely for your very kind address, and beg to assure you that I shall ever entertain the highest regard for the educational subjects, and all honest workers in the cause of education.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

In the last issue of the MAGAZINE we published answers to the questions of the Chemistry Paper set at the last Intermediate Examination, prepared by the Examiner, Dr. Haamel. If the other members of the Central Committee of Examiners would publish model answers to their questions, they would furnish each year a valuable contribution to school literature. They should bear in mind that they are, by means of these Examination Papers,

not only testing the work already done, but giving direction and character to subsequent class-room instruction.

Next year will be rendered interesting in the astronomical world by the occurrence of a transit of the planet Venus. This phenomenon can only happen when the planet is at its inferior conjunction, and at the same time very near one of its nodes. It is, therefore, of rare occurrence, but very important,