

himself to be placated. When he sees his mark, he hits it. With this interesting personage, the proprietor of the *School Journal*, in his last issue, seems to think that we can have no kinship, for in our criticism upon the "Practical Speller," which we are asked to believe is now of saintly typographical perfection, its angry publisher is of the opinion that though we may still be "willing to wound," we are, however, "afraid to strike." Well, from those who love us we are constrained at times to accept a compliment, for, coming from such a source, a compliment it is. Translated, it means that we are not so black as we have been painted. But is Mr. Gage serious in representing us in lighter colours than has been his wont? Is he of the opinion that we have really held our hand of late, or has not his own "hireling scribbler" got matters mixed? Should he not have written: "unwilling to wound, but not afraid [nor unable] to strike?" Our own impression at any rate is that *we had struck!* But we will not dispute the point, though our issue of last December tells its own tale.

We are glad, however, to learn from the accompanying *School Journal* editorial that the publishers of the "Practical Speller" have at last realized the importance of "correct typography" in school-book literature. Their "earnest desire" to improve the orthography of their publications will be a gain, we hope, to the education of the Province, for which our school authorities and Messrs. Gage will have to thank the MONTHLY and the literary "smellfungi" on its staff. The debt owed to us by the publishers of the "Speller" might first have been liquidated, however, before issuing their ostentatious "promise to pay" other people for work we had already done. Ninety per centum of the errors we pointed out in the "Speller" have been corrected in later editions; and considering that the publishers will have no personal service to win in furthering the sale of the book by settling that little bill with us, we are willing to accept settlement at half the reward now offered for the discovery of the errors yet to be corrected in the work. This advantageous adjustment of our claim

we shall expect the firm at once to accept. If, however, *they are willing to wound but unwilling to pay*, we will defeat their "sinister purpose" by withholding information of the errors in syllabication which still disgrace the book and besoul the nostrils of the "literary 'Smellfungus' of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY."

To the Editor of the C. E. Monthly.

SIR,—Will you kindly aid us in settling a dispute? At our last Convention the subject of pronunciation was discussed in connection with the reading of a paper on that subject. It was hotly contended by many that in words like *vaunt*, *taunt*, *gauntlet*, and *laundry*, the *au* should have the sound of *a* in *far*, whilst others, with equal force, fought for the broad sound of these letters, like *a* in *fall*. Which way is it? An early reply will oblige

Yours, etc.,

November 22nd.

PEN. E. TANG.

[Usage is divided. The weight of dictionary authority is in favour of the *a* in *far* sound, but most good speakers pronounce words such as the above with the broad sound of *a* in *fall*. *Vaunt* and *vault* always have this sound.—*Ed. C. E. M.*]

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.—Owing to pressure of work at the printers, in anticipation of the early meeting of the Ontario Legislature, the present number of the MONTHLY has been unduly delayed. Many contributions have for another reason—from want of space—been crowded out. In the December issue, which will appear at the close of the year, we hope to overtake much of this matter. The number will contain a paper by the Editor, reviewing the recent progress of Canadian literature. Editorials will also appear on Education in Quebec; Our School Legislation; A Plurality of Authorized School Readers; together with extracts from the *Bystander* on Educational Questions, and a communication on the New Public School Programme. Arrangements are nearly completed for the new year. Many interesting papers and not a few new features will be introduced in 1883. The MONTHLY will enter upon its fifth year with increased vigour and, thanks to its many and hearty friends, with a greatly extended subscription list.