

system I have always set my face against. A board of trustees ought to name a respectable salary in their advertisements, and then they may expect teachers to apply who are qualified for the office. The certificate itself is a very bare qualification. There are many other adjuncts which render a preceptor's services peculiarly valuable; for example, a good address and a courteous manner; an avoidance of slang and low colloquialisms; an aptitude for conveying knowledge; a personal appearance that presents no point for the shafts of ridicule; a high character for morality, and a pronunciation free from dialectic provincialisms. A hundred dollars a year is nothing to a school section, in comparison with procuring the services of a thoroughly good teacher. But the low-priced one often carries the day. A certificated teacher once rushed into my house, exclaiming, "Doctor, I want you to give me a recommend." He was making application for a school in a section where I had some friends. I asked myself, "How can I give a testimonial as a teacher to a man who does not know a noun from a verb?" I complied with his request so far as to testify to his general character, stating that I knew nothing of his qualifications as a teacher. For even this much my conscience afterwards accused me; but I laid "the flattering unction to my soul" that it was the poor man's *disqualifications* that I knew most about. He got the school. On another occasion I was in the house of a person who was regarded as a model trustee. In fact he had been a teacher himself under the old *régime*. Being proud of his son's progress, he produced the boy's copy book for my inspection. The teacher had written the first line, a "copy" in "large-hand"—letters about an inch long between the lines—and the word was "*Opinion*." It was spelled exactly

as the teacher pronounced it, and the boy had copied the blunder, nor had the delighted father suspected that anything was wrong. There were certain words which this teacher pronounced so strangely that his pupils used to lay snares for him by asking questions, with apparent submissiveness and politeness, the answers to which involved the pronunciation of one or more of these words. The young hypocrites would then, with their confederates, enjoy the fun.

Some trustees resolve to give only so much and no more. The other day I noticed in a city daily an advertisement for a teacher with a second-class Provincial certificate; salary \$200 *per annum*. Things have come to a sad pass. Distinguished graduates of Toronto University will now accept situations at a salary of \$400 or \$450 a year. The question is, "How is this state of affairs to be remedied?" I throw out a suggestion for the consideration of the friends of education and of the teacher, and would be glad to learn the opinions of wiser men than myself in the matter. I have come to the conclusion, despite a popular prejudice against centralization, that we already owe much to it in educational matters, and that we ought to have more of it. I believe ignorant and penurious trustees work education much evil; and I would propose that their powers should be curtailed. It is the duty of a State to act in a parental capacity, and where her children are not qualified to judge for their own interests to interpose the judgment of qualified persons. I have many improvements connected with our school system in view, but I must, through want of space, pass nearly all of these over, and refer merely to the selection of teachers and the rate of their remuneration. When there are vacancies in the Civil Service of England or of India, an advertisement is inserted in