

triangle, or even draw a straight line. A free and ready use of pen and pencil is one of the strongest recommendations to many positions to-day. Many great men are scrawlers, but it is not a necessity—neatness of writing would certainly set off their other qualities. The exercises in Book I. are all on straight lines. In our opinion, they are too simple. All the exercises in penmanship are on curved lines, so that the drawing of curves would not be in advance of the other portions of the book. Why not, in such books, add simple exercises that would *amuse*? Art is not a favorite pursuit with Canadians; perhaps we might foster and develop the latent talents by early calling into play the imagination and interest of our youngest pupils. At least no harm can be done. The drawing of straight lines may become monotonous—in fact, judging from the productions, we might say that it is easier to draw curves than straight lines. And then the cover. We all remember the unsightly, flesh-colored, limp cover, that was an eye-sore to us all, and gave many of us a dislike to the sight of school-books. We learn through the senses, and the eye must be attracted and the feeling of pleasure stimulated. The color of the new cover is brighter, and the binding neater—but we fear the new cover is more liable to split. The tendency of such covers under the action of heat and moisture is to twist and curl, destroying the appearance and durability of the book. Children should be provided with books that are *strong and lasting*; we have our doubts about the new cover; a strong, stiff cover would have been more serviceable in many respects. The only attractive part of the cover is its color. We think that some of the illustration and attractiveness of the inside might have been more profitably spent upon the outside. Taking it all in all, however, we almost wish we were boys (and girls) again together, that we might wipe out the dreamy hours in the old gloomy school-room by reciting anew our lessons or drawing pictures out of such a little treasury. He is a surly boy, and she is a sulky girl, who will not take delight in this new work. We congratulate the Minister of Education—peruse the work and you will do the same.