

dertaking because the old stately rhythm of the original, it is affirmed, has been largely sacrificed in favour of some questionable gain in grammatical accuracy. The task admittedly has been a difficult and a delicate one, and perhaps we should rather rejoice that the Revisers have so far restrained their hands in the work of revision, than fling stones at them for what, in the no doubt faithful and conscientious exercise of their task, they have ventured to alter. The old doctrines, it need hardly be said, remain untouched, and no vital change has been found necessary in anything that affects the fundamentals of Christian faith.

SCHOOL ORTHOEPY.

It is time that our educational authorities looked after the pronunciation of English, taught in our Public Schools, if such vulgarisms are sanctioned as the Inspector of the City of Toronto defends and quotes certain authority for. The question has been raised in the newspapers as to the pronunciation of the word "been," and the City School Inspector, having had his English, we fear, corrupted by his frequent visits to the other side of the line, asserts that the correct pronunciation of the word is *bin*—rhyming with *sin*—and lends the weight of his authority to the word being so pronounced in the schools. Now it is bad enough to import professors for our educational institutions from England, but let us stop short of importing the *American* language with all its dialects and "fonetics," and thus save the Queen's English from dishonour while we remain subjects of the Crown. We are aware that Mr. Hughes quotes authority for his pronunciation of "been," but so he can for any other vulgarism. Josh Billings and Mark Twain will supply him with "classical" specimens in abundance. But these are not the authorities made use of by educated persons in England, nor will Mr. Hughes find his preference sustained in any literary circle of repute in Canada. Moreover, if there is any force in his favourite phonetics, Mr. Hughes should know that he

is quite wrong in his pronunciation of the word. Has he heard of "Stormonth's" Dictionary—a lexicon which is almost universally accepted in the British dominions, at least, by persons of education and culture? We recommend the Toronto School Board to send Mr. Hughes a copy of this "authority," and beg them to place one in each of the City Schools. When that is done, let the pupils then be asked to hunt up in the works of our best English poets instances in which the word "been" occurs at the end of a rhyming couplet or stanza, and after collecting these to forward them to the Inspector with the request that he will note the word that rhymes with it, and thus learn its *undoubted* pronunciation. Pope's lines may here be recalled with profit:—

"Enough that virtue fill'd the space *between*
Prov'd by the ends of being to have *been*."

In some respects it is fortunate that Mr. Hughes' visits to the schools of the city are as infrequent as we hear them to be. We wish him better work, however, when he does come in contact with the masters and pupils than in setting before them provincialisms in pronunciation, whatever atrocities he may commit in his school manuals. In the latter he can be tracked and set-right; in the schools it is not so easy to do so.

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION.

DR. PURSLOW, of Port Hope, in our Contributors' Department, in the present number, very pertinently and in good taste discusses the question of professional promotion and the reasonableness of the expectation entertained by High School Masters that when vacancies occur in Government institutions of an educational character, which may naturally be looked upon as prizes in the profession, they should be filled by one of their number. To the position taken by our correspondent there can be no shadow of an objection, save, perhaps, the one involved in the principle of Civil Service Reform—that the Deputy of the late excellent Principal should, if eligible, fill his shoes. Unquestionably,