

value of our opinion is destroyed. If we praise and censure with judgment our opinion may obtain some value. This we conceive to be the duty of the journalist who by noticing new books, becomes so to speak a mediator between the publisher and the public.

The Nova Scotia Arithmetic by W. R. MULLHOLLAND.—A. & W. MACKINLAY. Halifax, N. S.

The revised edition of this work is before the public. It would deserve infinite credit from the single fact that it initiates the youthful mind into the various complications of our currency. It is a book essentially constructed for a mercantile people, and as such should receive great support in this Province. A child expecting some day to become a merchant should thoroughly peruse the latter part of the work, which supplies the rudiments of mercantile science in a lucid and simple form. The examples in "exchange" seems to us far better than the rules, which are somewhat puzzling—take as an example the following, which though the rule it wishes to express is very simple in itself, would flounder even better men than Mr. Mullholland by its strange involutions and repetitions.

GENERAL RULE.—Place, as the second term in the analogy, that sum whose value is to be found in the money of another country; make that term of the rate which is of the same kind with the second term, the first term of the analogy, and the remaining term of the rate, the third term; then work the analogy in the usual way."

The book however will recommend itself to the instructors of youth in the province. It will perhaps command more respect from the fact of the HINTS for the TEACHING of ARITHMETIC by the Superintendent of Education being published in its first pages. The remarks of this gentleman are very sensible, though the desire that "on no account should the pupils be allowed to drop saliva on their slates, or to rub them with their sleeve or any other part of their dress" suggest the supposition that the "Monitors" to whom he alludes are entirely destitute of any common sense whatsoever. The "NOVA SCOTIA ARITHMETIC" (which by the bye should have been called Nova Scotian Arithmetic, since we do not generally talk of a France system or an America institution) is a work of sterling merit and will prove most useful in our schools. It possesses moreover the uncommon advantage of providing a fair scheme of arithmetical education for the children of our country districts who are so often precluded by distance or the severity of winter weather from attending any school at all.

The Pigeon Pie by Miss YONGE. Z. S. HALL, Halifax, N. S.

This little book we must confess has disappointed us. Though all that Miss Yonge writes must please ourselves, we think *Pigeon Pie* is hardly up to her usual standard of excellence. We could hardly believe it to be written by the same author as the "Little Duke" and other historical tales for children, which have been given us by Miss Yonge. It is very desirable that, if fiction be brought into contact with history in children's books, the history be not falsified to make the story more impressive. The manner in which in "Pigeon Pie" every cavalier is made an angel and every Roundhead an incarnate fiend, or misguided fool, tends to convey false impressions to the youthful mind. Children were taught in this manner before Carlyle and Macaulay wrote on the characters of Cromwell and his followers. Now they are not taught to consider Charles I quite such a martyr as some supposed. With this and one or two other small faults the "Pigeon Pie" is still far above the average of children's books, and we can confidently recommend it to our readers.

Gascoyne the sandal wood trader, by R. M. BALLANTYNE. Z. S. HALL. Halifax, N. S.

This is a pirate tale which will delight its boy readers.

Mr. Ballantyne's former work the *Young fur traders* was so true in its descriptions of the far west, that we must give him credit for an equal truthfulness when describing a scene in the Southern seas. The book is very fairly illustrated.

X

TO OUR READERS.

In our first column of our first number we remarked as follows:—

"In Halifax, published opinions are too often quoted with reference to some individual writer. The absurdity of this is manifest to every one possessing a grain of common sense. It often happens that an argument is lost sight of in order to impute motives to him who argues, and the value of argument is thus considerably weakened. The private character, or means, or position of a writer, are matters with which the general public have no concern, nor do such matters necessarily influence published opinions. Half starved authors have written with seeming pleasure about details the most luxurious, whereas opulent men have written in a strain of envious parsimony. An habitually self-indulgent man may pen an excellent treatise upon the luxury of self-denial; a drunkard may argue ably in favour of teetotalism; an infidel may set forth the beauties of the Christian religion. Such men should be publicly judged only with reference to their opinions as publicly expressed. Has such a measure of common fairness been awarded to opinions made public in the Halifax Press? Assuredly not. Examples are close at hand. A paper publishes an article favourable to the policy of the existing Administration, and we are forthwith informed that the writer is in Government employ. No sane man will accept this fact as any argument whatever. If it be a man's pecuniary interest to advocate a certain policy, the chances are he will argue with all his power: if then his arguments be disproved, so much the better for those opposed to his views—they have probably heard the worst that can be urged against them. But what in such a case, cares the reading public regarding the individuality of the writers upon either side? Nothing whatever. A man's published opinions are public property—his motives belong to himself. If an argument be sound, nothing that can be advanced against the arguer will in any way lessen its soundness. Such are our views regarding personality, a system, the baneful effects of which degrade journalism, and silence those most competent to guide men's minds."

We are induced to recur to the foregoing extract by two pressing reasons. Firstly, many who now read our paper never cast eyes upon our first issue, since the circulation of our tenth number trebled that of our first. Secondly, because we regret to find, that by what we deem unfair attacks upon ourselves, other periodicals have justified the conclusions which we had previously arrived at, and which we expressed in the extract quoted above. It would be mere affectation on our part to imagine that many of these silly scurrilities were aimed at other than ourselves. Had it been so they would have been answered in a similar strain long ago. The managers of the BULL FROG have been called "the Snobocracy," "Military Snobs," and many other of offensive terms have been applied to them. It strikes us forcibly that some journals must expend even more of their vis viva in discovering the writers of articles than they do in anathematizing them when discovered. Let us have done once and for ever with this kind of rubbish. The managers of the Bull Frog are neither Military nor Civilian; they are simply managers of a paper, the success of which depends upon its merits. If they admit into their paper any thing false for heaven's sake let it be contradicted at once and refuted at once. Every journal like every individual must occasionally err, but if a man commit a murder or a journal make use of a false argument, it is utterly foreign to the question to abuse either the murderer for wearing a bad coat or the journal for the hat which its editor wears.

These remarks have been called forth because two leading articles have been devoted to us in a popular evening paper. The first confined itself to a general abuse of our "little sheet" and partially, though not entirely, abstained from personalities. The second, though it disputed the arguments of one of our articles, unfortunately could not refrain from a few personal touches. With the former part of this attack we have nothing at present to do. From the expression of two diametrically opposite opinions the truth may issue. When however a journal descends irrelevantly in a leading article on Public Opinion to a question of moustaches and "pant's"