

tempt for the 'base mechanic arts.' One outcome of it is the drift of the young people from the country into the city, the swelling of the ranks of the professions and of the genteel employments. As a consequence, the greatest natural industry of the country suffers. Farming, instead of being taken up by the bright, better-educated, and progressive youth of the province, is left for the most part to those who have had poorer chances at school. To get the education which makes professional men of boys who should have been farmers, lands are mortgaged, and the owners of them have to struggle along under the burden of debt, while in the overcrowded professions the young fellows cannot earn enough to repay the cost of their education."

(5) Canadian parents have no control over their children. This is the simple truth. It is not quite so bad as in the United States, but it is bad enough. There is nothing that strikes a new comer more than this, and things have come to such a pass that a man I once knew who taught his children to obey was looked upon as unkind and almost cruel.

The abuse levelled at Dickens for telling the truth to the Americans suggests that, in telling the truth to the Canadians, I had better simply sign myself, Yours, etc.,

A CANADIAN WHO HAS LIVED IN
ENGLAND.

Toronto. Feb. 15th.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Your periodical, I am afraid, while it is being well received by our teachers generally, has offended some of the members of the text-book committee who have been saying that they know all about me and have only to hold up their little finger to get me into hot water with my employers. Now, Mr. Editor, how is it that any one knows all about me unless you have divulged

the secret, and I am sure you would never think of doing such a thing. I am rather inclined to think that in trying to scare me they have only been showing how troubled they are themselves in being brought face to face with the public. They are public servants, and it was unwise of them to think of doing anything that cannot bear the light of day shed upon it. And no matter what they think, the public are now going to have it made known to them what is being done both as regards the authorizing of text-books and the framing of resolutions which have nearly always in them something to repress the personality of the teacher or the pupil. A text-book in this province is not a text-book at all unless our self-elected censor either likes the book or the person who has compiled it. The selection is never without this element of personal like or dislike, and hence it comes about that our text-book list has become a jumble of good and evil. Do you think, Mr. Editor, if you were to write a text-book, even as good a one as Euclid wrote three thousand years ago, that you would have the faintest chance of having it authorized for use in our Montreal schools, after allowing me to write to you as I have been doing. Why, sir, it would be condemned in certain quarters before it had reached the bookbinder's. Its reprobation would be an accomplished fact before either the Protestant Committee or the Montreal Board had ever set their eyes upon it. And suppose, Mr. Editor, you happened to have a book on our authorized list, what do you think would happen? Why, my dear sir, your book would be superseded in the shortest time possible, and nobody, outside of a certain circle, would know anything about the change until it had been irrevocably accomplished unless as at the last meeting of the Montreal Com-