

THE
EDUCATIONAL RECORD
OF THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

No. 4.

APRIL, 1889.

VOL. IX.

Articles: Original and Selected.

WHO ARE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS.*

The profession of teaching in Greece approached more nearly to our ideal than did that of any other ancient nation. The Sophists were itinerant teachers, but Plato, Aristotle, that grand teacher, Socrates, and those other illustrious spirits of the age, were the first to give serious thought to the science and the art of education; and from them we have still much to learn.

In Rome, we find the best example of the practical, utilitarian teacher. The child was to become either a statesman or a soldier, and nothing must be taught him that would not be useful in one or the other of these pursuits. The teachers were narrow and mechanical, and contributed nothing to educational literature.

In the middle ages, the church united with the state, assumed control of education, and the inevitable result followed: religion degenerated into a blind idolatry, the masses were left in the most degraded ignorance, and often even the bishops, the teachers, did not know the alphabet. But such a condition of affairs was not to last. Busy minds were at work to strike the shackles from their limbs. The exponent of the new faith, new, yet old as the human race, announced the startling fact that it is

(* A Paper read before the South-western Association of Teachers by Mr. S. B. Todd, of Stirling).