

passion which lurk there more ready to in-
dict their passion. For all this we should
make allowance, and not attempt their go-
vernment altogether by our own cold stand-
ard, but we should go back to the child-
years of our own lives, think of their
smiles, their tears, think how the one, gush-
ing into our heart like the Spring's early
sunshine, was as quickly followed by the
other as the weepings of April dispel it—
think how, to our inexperienced minds,
there was no happiness like *our* happiness,
and no sorrow like *our* sorrows. We
should go back again, and feeling how
love was a full cup of gladness to our
hearts, and unkindness the bitterest
draught that we could drink, govern
gently, govern lovingly, govern sympa-
thizingly, with the full belief, that, as a
general thing:

"He who checks a child with terror,
Stops his play and kills his song;
Not alone commits an error,
But a grand and moral wrong."

We may prune and direct the vine we
have planted, but let us be careful lest by
a too free use of the former means—effica-
cious if used prudently to promote a noble
growth—we destroy its vigor. One or
two severe applications might be useful,
but five or ten might prove its ruin. One
may be too strict in family government,
as others are far too lax; not too strict
perhaps in insisting upon uprightness and
integrity, but too exacting in the require-
ment of attention to non-essentials.—
Especially should the parent be careful
when the child approaches the period of
life spoken of by Hugh Miller, in the
following passage from his "Autobiog-
raphy:"—

"There is," says he, "a transition
time in which the strength and indepen-
dence of the latent man begin to mingle
with the willfulness and indiscretion of
the mere boy, which is more perilous than
any other, and in which many more
downward careers of recklessness and folly
begin, that end in wreck and ruin, than
in all the other years of life which inter-
vene between childhood and old age.—
The growing lad should be wisely and
tenderly dealt with at this critical stage.
The severity that would fain compel
the implicit submission yielded at an
earlier period, would probably succeed, if
his character was a strong one, in insuring
but his ruin. It is at this transition
stage that boys run off to sea from their
parents and masters, or, when tall enough,
enlist in the army for soldiers. The
strictly orthodox parent, if more severe
than wise, succeeds occasionally in driv-

ing, during this crisis, his son into Popery
or infidelity; and the sternly moral one,
in landing his in utter profligacy. But,
leniently and judiciously dealt with, the
dangerous period passes,—in a few years
at most, in some instances in even a few
months,—the sobriety incidental to a fur-
ther development of character ensues, and
the wild-boy settles down into the rational
young man."



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NOTICE.

In order to extend the circulation of the
EDUCATIONALIST, we issue a few copies
more than we have subscribers for,
which we send to our friends, whom we
will hold as subscribers unless the papers
are returned before the next number reaches
their post office.

TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

We were present, on the 23rd ult., at
the Quarterly Convention of the "Associ-
ation of School Teachers for the East
Riding of Northumberland," which was
held at Hilton. This Association has
been in existence rather over a year, and
appears to be in a flourishing condition.
We hope to be able to lay the minutes of
the meeting before our readers in our next
issue; meanwhile we cannot do better than
state some few ideas which were sug-
gested to our mind in witnessing the
proceedings of the Convention.

The only true method of improving the
social condition of our Teachers, consists
in raising their intellectual qualifications;
and we know of no better means of doing
this, than the encouragement of Institu-
tions of this description.

It is a fact that cannot be disputed,
that many of the professions are but ill
fitted for their business. It is true that
an examination must be passed and a cer-
tificate obtained, before they are allowed
to officiate as teachers; but this exami-
nation must necessarily be imperfect.—
The time is too limited. It is impossible,
in the few hours devoted to this object, to
do more than test the acquirements of the
candidates in the most elementary portions
of the subjects under consideration. The
examiners are, many of them, men who
have no practical experience in teaching;
and, therefore, that most important sub-

ject, school-government and organization,
is, in like cases cut off, entirely neg-
lected; moreover, in examinations, as at
present conducted, the candidates are put
in the position not of teachers, but of
learners. A good plan, as it seems to us,
would be to compel each candidate for a
certificate to illustrate some subject, as he
would to his pupils in the school-room—
And this is done to some extent in these
teachers' meetings. This operates bene-
ficially, not only on the appointed instruc-
tors, but on every individual present; for,
by this means, different methods of in-
struction are exemplified, and the hearers
have an opportunity of deciding on that
which best meets their own requirements
and circumstances. A healthy spirit of
emulation is also encouraged. Each feels
that he is on trial by his peers, and that
any error or short-coming will be immedi-
ately detected by an audience, each of
whom is engaged in the daily study and
explanation of the subject he is illustrat-
ing, and is therefore more careful than he
would be, were he never to leave his stu-
tion in the school-room, and to lecture
only to those, to whom his word is law,
and his opinions infallible. A spirit of
friendship is also engendered in those who
meet periodically to interchange opinions,
and to give each other the advantage of
discussing any new plans of instruction
or illustration which may have suggested
themselves to them. Teachers may, in
this way, become a band of brothers,
strong in unity; whereas, when each
works separately, their endeavors are con-
fused, jarring, chaotic. Great, truly, is
the virtue of union. United, every stroke
tells, the improvement of one becomes the
property of all; disorder and confusion
are replaced by organization and disci-
pline; *Cosmos* arises out of *Chaos*. We
hope the day is not far distant when not
only every county, but every township in
Canada will have its Teachers' Union,
believing that by this means not only will
the position of the teacher be improved,
but that, consequent on that improvement,
the people will become better educated,
and therefore more fitted for the high po-
sition that our Province must eventually
hold among the nations of the world; and
that the light of literature and science
will fill the land, in glorious anticipation
of that great promised era, when "the
earth shall be filled with the knowledge
of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea,"
when "all our children shall be taught of
the Lord, and great shall be the peace of
our children."