

justifies us in predicting that his promotion to a higher and wider sphere of usefulness will have a marked effect on the professional character of those teachers who are fortunate enough to come within the sphere of his influence.

Mr. Scott's place as Head Master of the Toronto Model School has been taken by C. Clarkson, B.A., who is, like his predecessor, a graduate of the University of Toronto. His favorite subject is mathematics, and his fellow-teachers have frequently benefited by his knowledge and skill through the columns of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, to which he has been a frequent contributor. Mr. Clarkson was an experienced and successful public school teacher before taking a university course. Since graduation he has had charge of the Brockville County Model School and of the Seaforth High School, in both of which he added to his professional reputation as well as his experience. He enters his new sphere with the brightest prospects of success, and with the best wishes of his fellow-teachers, amongst whom he has always been exceptionally popular.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

Under the energetic superintendence of the Rev. Principal Grant there is little danger of Queen's standing still. Whenever he wants funds he makes a point of saying so, and he generally manages to say it in such a way that the money is forthcoming. He is equally prompt and impartial in securing good men to fill vacancies in his staff. A few months ago the chair of classics, rendered vacant by the lamented death of the late Professor Mackerras was filled by the appointment of John Fletcher, M.A., a Canadian with an Oxford training. Recently two more appointments have been made which can hardly fail to raise the reputation of Queen's. The venerable Dr. Williamson, who has long filled the chair of Physics, having retired from active service in connection with it, his place has been taken by D. H. Marshall, M.A., F.R.S.E. who comes with the very highest recommendation and with a good deal of professional experience. After serving for some time as assistant to Professor Tait in Edinburgh University he spent seven years in the Japanese Imperial College at Tokio. Professor Dupuis, who has had for some years both Mathematics and Chemistry under his charge, is relieved of the latter by the provisional appointment of George McGowan, F.R.S.E. This will enable the staff to do better for the students in both departments.

THE "MARMION" CONTROVERSY.

Now that the discussion about "Marmion" as a high school text has come to an end it may be not unprofitable to inquire what has been gained by it from an educational point of view. During the controversy much has been said that had better have been left unsaid, but on the whole much good has been done, and not a little useful light thrown on one important department of secondary education, the study of English.

The agitation about "Marmion" grew out of the objections urged against it by representative clergymen of the Roman

Catholic church, these objections being based on the fact that certain passages of the poem contain representations of Roman Catholicism insulting to the adherents of that persuasion. To insist that Roman Catholic candidates for the teachers' and the intermediate examinations should study critically a text so offensive to them was felt by the Education Department to be unjust, and for this reason the Minister of Education has allowed an option between "Marmion" and "Goldsmith's Traveller." Had he done so at the outset the prolonged controversy might have been avoided, but it was deemed advisable to allow the Senate of Toronto University to take action first as it was primarily responsible for the selection of the book. The Senate declined to make any allowance for scruples, however, and this left the Department free to act on its own responsibility with the result above stated.

The questions raised in the controversy were (1) whether the objections to "Marmion" urged by the Roman Catholic hierarchy were reasonable, and whether the Archbishop of Toronto had a right to a hearing as the representative of his church; (2) whether the remedy proposed by the Department of Education is the one most likely to suit the case; and (3) whether "Marmion"—and Burke's "Reflections" may be named with it in this connection—is, apart from questions of religion and morality, a suitable text-book for the intermediate and matriculation course. These we propose to consider briefly in the order in which they are stated.

1. Every reasonable man, especially if he knows anything about the constitution of the Roman Catholic church and the relation of the hierarchy to the laity within it must at once concede the propriety of any complaint about text-books coming through the highest dignitary of the church in the Province. Those who felt it a grievance to be compelled to read "Marmion" did the most natural thing when they consulted Archbishop Lynch about the matter, and it was equally natural and proper that he should state their objections to the Department. If he misstated the views of his people that is his own and their affair; if he stated their views correctly the outside public have no right to refuse to hear the complaint simply because he was the mouthpiece of his church.

Nor, we imagine, can there be much diversity of opinion as to whether the objection, when properly understood is a reasonable one. Much of what has been written on the subject has been aside from the real issue here. The objection urged has not been so much that "Marmion" is immoral—though we know of Protestant high school masters who think it quite unfit to be read in class even on this ground alone—as that it is offensive to a large and respectable religious body who have the same rights in the high schools as all other denominations have. There could not have been any intention to insult the Roman Catholics by making such a selection, but when the book is found to be objectionable it is reasonable and proper to endeavor to find a remedy.

2. Has the Minister of Education found the best remedy? He proposes to allow those who object to "Marmion" to read instead of it the "Traveller." This will enable those who have purchased editions of "Marmion", or may desire to use them, to go on and do so; it will at the same time enable