

CONTRIBUTORS' DEPARTMENT.

HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGIATE INSTITUTES.

To the Editor of the Canada Educational Monthly:

SIR,—I beg to be allowed to offer some observations in reply to a communication in your last issue over the signature *Justitia*, a *nom de plume*, it seems to me, singularly at variance with this writer's assertions and his objects. I do not propose at present to follow him in detail through his laboured attempt to justify a species of monopoly; his trepidation in view of the real question at issue, and his anxiety to divert attention by raising side issues, sufficiently indicate to the intelligent reader the merits of his cause. So great are his alarm and confusion that he does not notice that no such proposition as the withdrawing of the extra grant of \$750 to Collegiate Institutes was made by the writer of the article in the *Whitby Chronicle* (to be found in your December issue). The Minister of Education was urged *not* to interfere with vested rights. He *was* urged to reckon a girl of the same value as a boy throughout the High School system. Is *Justitia* prepared to oppose this proposition? It would be interesting in the face of the attitude towards female education of the great universities throughout Europe and America, the founding of Girton and similar colleges, and the brilliant achievements, at the Provincial University, of young ladies coming from the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, to see his apology for the gratuitous insult that is put upon every young lady in the High School by estimating the worth to the country of the pursuit of classics on her part as utterly without pecuniary value, and that of boys, every year, the handsome sum of ten thousand dollars. The aim of the writer in the *Whitby Chronicle* was not, I repeat, to

deprive the Collegiate Institutes of the extra grant of \$750 per annum, but to gain for the High Schools the same amount, by the pursuit of other subjects of quite as much value as the ancient classics, and open to all, irrespective of sex. *Justitia's* piteous plea for "vested rights" and "extra grant" may therefore, for the present be entertained. As the article in the *Whitby Chronicle* was written with a view to influence legislation; and inasmuch as any part that I might take in the discussion of the question would be solely to that end, and since the matter is now not likely to come up for discussion, this Session, in the Legislative Assembly, I do not think I would accomplish my object by pursuing *Justitia* through his maze of figures, and by combating, step by step, his views. Furthermore, the whole question of the extra grant to Collegiate Institutes will, according to notice, be discussed at the next meeting of the Teachers' Provincial Association, High School Masters' section, and I hope will receive such treatment there that the Minister of Education will see his way to remove all grounds of dissatisfaction in the premises at once and forever. Moreover, the discussion of the subject along the lines indicated by *Justitia* would involve the consideration of the classical work done in the Collegiate Institutes individually, and this I am unwilling, for obvious reasons, to undertake. At the risk of the imputation of want of courage, I decline the odious task of comparison.

I may, however, without at present going into the subject as fully as its importance demands, be permitted to say that *Justitia's* figures appear to prove anything but what he wishes and intends them to prove. His first group proves nothing unless it be that in the Collegiate Institutes in 1878, there was "a little Latin and less Greek," and