



# THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

Devoted to Education, Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Volume XIII. Quebec, Province of Quebec, April, 1869. No. 4.

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## EDUCATION.

### Screwing Down Teachers.

Some parents go to a school, as they would to a shop, to purchase a certain quantity of education, as they would food or clothing at the lowest possible price. They enquire the amount of the fee, and whatever that may be, a guinea or a half-crown, they object and propose an abatement. Their arguments are amusing: "Schooling" is very dear to what it was when they

were young—Mr. So-and-so charges far less—teaching is but little trouble," &c., Others, we have heard, claim a reduction because the pupil is very young or very *little*, quite forgetting that there is at least as much trouble in teaching a very young child as one more advanced, and that a greater amount of professional skill is requisite in the former than in the latter case. Parents of a third variety may be found demanding a discount because they have three or four to pay for; and they quietly hint, that if the teacher will not give education to *four* for *three* fees, he shall have none. Would these parties admit such a practice in their own trades or professions? Would a banker lend *four* hundred pounds for the interest of *three*? Would a landlord let *four* houses for the rent of *three*? Would a baker sell *four* loaves for the price of *three*? Again a fourth class will advance many pleas to the same purpose; such as—"The boy joined the class a week after the quarter day; now; there are twelve weeks in a quarter, and the fee is six shillings, therefore sixpence must be deducted!" These people would be astonished, were they informed that the teacher, instead of granting a deduction, would be justified in charging *doubled* fee, as a trifling compensation for the extra trouble caused by his urging the laggard pupil on to overtake the class. They will also plead, "The boy was unwell for *three days and a half*!" In short, each economical father or managing mother believes that every shilling kept off the teacher is a shilling justifiably gained.

Besides these attempts at reduction, which every independent teacher should resist, there are others to which the benevolent must yield. A widow struggling to give her child a good education—a professional brother having a family to bring up on limited means—a merchant, suddenly unfortunate, whose children may have been with the teacher for years—all have claims upon his gratuitous services. Thus, if even those who are the most successful, and hold the most lucrative situations, realize far less than calculators suppose, how great must the privations be to men of very limited incomes, thus cruelly diminished!

In one word, let parents *economise* every where, that they may be generous, or at least *just*, to the most laborious and worst remunerated of all professions.—*Chamber's Edinburgh Journal.*