

SCHOOL RELATIONS BETWEEN UPPER CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

In the preceding (175 and 176) pages of this number of the *Journal of Education* will be found some remarks of the Official Common School Journal for the State of New-York, on the *Report of a System of Public Instruction for Upper Canada*, and the exclusion of American School Books and Teachers from our Schools. In respect to the exclusion of Alien Teachers from our Schools, the Chief Superintendent, in his *Special Report* of June 1847, remarked as follows :—

“I think that less evil arises from the employment of American Teachers, than from the use of American School Books. Some unquestionable friends of British Government, and deeply interested in the cause of popular education, represent that the clause of the Act not allowing legal certificates of qualification as Teachers to Aliens, operates, in some places, injuriously to the interests of Common Schools, as Aliens are the best Teachers that can be procured in those places. The provision exhibiting the qualification of Aliens as Common School Teachers constituted the 37th Section of the School Act of 1843; but as it did not take effect until 1846, it has been erroneously identified

with the present Act in contradistinction to the late Act. Trustees and parents can employ Aliens or whom they please as Teachers; but both the late and present School Act confine the expenditure of the School Fund to the remuneration of Teachers possessing legal certificates of qualification. Whatever may be thought of the wisdom or expediency of the clause restricting legal certificates of qualification to natural-born or naturalized British subjects in the first instance, I believe the public sentiment is against its repeal, and in favour of having the youth of the country taught by our fellow-subjects, as well as out of our own books.”—(pp. 15, 16.)

From all the information that we have received, we are not less doubtful of the expediency of this alien clause of the School Act than we were twelve months ago. But it is worthy of remark, that a Canadian Teacher cannot look for employment in the Common Schools of the United States. We have been informed of Canadian applicants having been rejected upon the ground of their being *British* subjects, and that this was the general rule in the State of New-York. The Canadians are therefore not less national on this subject than our American neighbours. The reciprocity desired by the New-York State *District School Journal* would certainly be more honourable to both countries.

As to the indiscriminate use of American School Books in our Schools, the reasons for the law against it are given in the *Special Report* above referred to, in immediate connection with the sentence quoted by our American contemporary. We should have been glad to have been favoured with his answer to them. They are as follows :—

“In regard to the exclusion of American Books from our Schools, I have explained, as I have had opportunity, that it is not be-

cause they are foreign books simply that they are excluded, although it is patriotic to use our own in preference to foreign