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Educational Weekly

Vol. IV.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD, 1886.

Number 88.

The Educational Weekly

Edited by T. ARNOLD HAULTAIN, M.A.

TERMS: Two Dollars per annum. Clubs of three, \$5.00. Clubs of five at \$1.60 each, or the five for \$8.00. Clubs of twenty at \$1.50 each, or the twenty for \$30.00.

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PUBLISHED BY

THE GRIP PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.,
TORONTO, CANADA.

JAMES V. WRIGHT, General Manager.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 23, 1886.

We have reviewed at some length in this issue "The Public School History of England and Canada." To praise a book is always easy, for one can praise without giving reasons for praising. But to criticize adversely is difficult, for one dislikes blaming without giving reasons for blaming. The reasons we have given for our opinion we hope will satisfy our readers. When we compare the book with "The Children's Picture-Book of English History" we are not arguing for a simpler book, a story book, but only that the work before us should have been written in a more taking style. What is the chief ingredient of a taking style, as far as children are concerned, we think we have shewn.

We call attention to the paragraphs taken from the English *Schoolmaster* to be found in the "Educational Opinion" columns and headed "The Art for School Association." Something of the same kind might, we think, by enterprising publishers

be done in this country. If it were, without doubt we should in the not very remote future hear less of the dearth of artistic spirit in the Dominion.

THE "Special Paper" on "The Queen's English" from *Education* is worthy of careful reading. The confessions which the New England writer makes might, with little exaggeration, be made by many in our broad lands also. The lower classes probably will never be wholly free from linguistic vulgarisms: the lamentable fact, however, is that here the higher classes also are grievous sinners in this respect.

THE *Times* (London, Eng.), devoted recently a large amount of space to a description of the Canadian section of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. The writer, if not a Canadian (to which probability not a few peculiarities of style point), was at least fairly well informed on Canadian matters, and he has done a very great deal to open the eyes of the British public in regard to the wealth and resources of the Dominion. He is an obstinate creature, the British public. Self complacency seems to have hardened his heart. His heart has waxed gross, and his ears are dull of hearing, and his eyes has he closed. Nevertheless the Exposition must have done much to enlighten him, even in regard to Canada. Indeed this is evident from the tenor of the *Times'* description. Not once or twice do we come across such sentences as, "Probably few people thought that Canada was so far advanced in civilization as to be able to produce such a profusion of articles," etc. But the writer has done more than give a mere description of the Canadian court; he has read Blue Books, consulted statistics, referred at some little length to such matters as railways, educational system, manufactures, fisheries, game, forestry, shipping, exports, imports, etc., etc. Nor does he content himself with mere reference to such subjects, but offers suggestions which, if not new to us, are at least sensible. For example: he draws attention to the enormous destruc-

tion of timber by means of fire, and the resulting impoverishment of the country. This denudation, he says, is "almost incalculable, and of serious national importance." And when he goes into detail, so indeed it seems.

"The greater part of the white oak and rock elm," he says, quoting from Dr. Robert Bell, of the Geological Survey, "has been already exported. The cherry, black walnut, red clover and hickory, have likewise been practically exhausted. Red oak, bass wood, white ash, white cedar, hemlock, butternut, hard maple, etc., as well as many inferior woods, are still to be found in sufficient quantities for home consumption. A considerable supply of yellow birch still exists, and in some regions is almost untouched. Mr. Bell shows that the white pine, the great timber tree of Canada, has a very much more limited area than is popularly supposed. Even if we include the Douglas pine area of British Columbia, the pine region is very limited compared with the whole area of Canada. The principal white pine reserves, as yet almost untouched, are to be found in the region round Lake Temiscaming and thence westward to the eastern shore of Lake Superior and to the central parts of the district between the Ottawa at Georgian Bay. But the exportable white pine, Mr. Bell tells us, must be exhausted in a few years though there are still vast quantities of spruce and larch to fall back upon, not to mention the immense supplies of British Columbia. But there are still vast forests of small timber in the northern regions which can soon be used for agricultural purposes, and which could be used for railways, telegraph poles, fences, and such like. Still surely the condition of the Canadian forests deserves the serious attention of the Central and Provincial Governments. If it is decided that they are not worth preserving, then let the reckless lumberman and the forest fire have their way. But surely a produce which has still so important a place in the exports and in the internal economy of the country deserves looking after. All that is wanted is systematic cutting and systematic planting not only of native trees but of such foreign species as would flourish on Canadian soil."

It is very pleasant to see weighty matters of Canadian internal economy brought so prominently before the notice of the mother country.

The following table shows in detail how the vote on the Federation question was cast:—

Conference.	FOR		AGAINST	
	Min.	Lay.	Min.	Lay.
Toronto.....	4	14	10	8
London.....	8	8	8	7
Niagara.....	9	0	7	6
Guelph.....	12	15	4	2
Bay of Quinte.....	5	10	11	6
Montreal.....	10	10	11	7
Nova Scotia.....	1	4	8	4
N. B. and P. E. I.....	3	3	5	4
Newfoundland.....	2	—	2	—
Manitoba.....	2	2	2	2
Total.....	66	72	68	46