

the west, interwoven with the romance of pioneering, all of which needs only to be touched into life for us in order to create an intense pride and faith in our native land.

If, instead of the intolerably lifeless catalogue of dates and events, the actors in these periods could be made to step from the shadowy past as beings of kin to ourselves, we should more rarely hear Canadian History classed as "dull" and "dry", whose greatest recommendation lies in the fact that it is short and can be hurriedly crammed for examination.

Chiefly into the hands of Canadian teachers will fall this work of laying the foundation of this broader, more intelligent, more vital patriotism which will be the shaping spirit not only of the present but of ages to come.

How great then should be the qualities of heart and brain so indispensable to the creation of this "role that is what we make it, as great as we like, or as small as we like, or both great and small".

E. GUEST, B. A.

Our Normal System.

A REPLY TO MR. BLACK.

In the December number of the MONTHLY there appeared an article from Mr. Norman F. Black, of Lindsay, in which the writer lays about him right and left at our Ontario Normal System, and makes a somewhat vicious attack on the Ontario Normal College. I felt like replying to the article at the time, but the acrimonious feelings which it engendered were adulcorated during the festivities of the Christmas season, and I abandoned my intention, partly with the hope that some abler hand would take up the cudgels in defence of our Alma Mater. But as this has not been done, I shall, even at this rather unseasonable date, with your permission, venture to make a few observations on the article in question.

As Mr. Black's article is somewhat lengthy and takes in the whole of our educational system, normal and non-professional, from the Kindergarten up to the University, I will not deal with it *in toto*, but shall confine my remarks more particularly to his criticism of that much maligned institution, the Ontario Normal College.

Be it admitted once for all that there is no such thing as perfection in anything man has made, and that the Normal College, being a human institution, has many defects; but I do maintain, and I will endeavor to demonstrate my assertion, that with the exception of the examination evil, Mr. Black's criticism of the Ontario Normal College is altogether beside the mark, and his criticism is only half pertinent here. While we must all agree that it is a fact to be deplored that the entire examination is not conducted by the staff of the college who have had at least some opportunity to judge our teaching ability, and that our fate should in any measure be handed over to the Philistines, I do take issue with Mr. Black's second objection and bitterly resent the remarks he makes on the frivolity and superficiality of students "who escape the examiners' net." Of the men and women who form our class this year (and there is no reason to be believe that we differ substantially from the average class that has been here in the past or will be here in the future,) who in any just sense is either frivolous or superficial? If that were the character of their mental organization, they could not have attained the academic standing that is necessary for admission to the institution. No, we resent this vile insinuation of frivolity and superficiality as applied to the students of the Ontario Normal College. No one is here for fun, but in deep earnest, and I believe that every individual in the institution, while his success at the examinations is undeniably a matter of material import, looks beyond that mark and has