

A GOOD PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL A NECESSITY TO THE TEACHER.

This vitally important truth is put forward with as much force as literary merit in the following article, which we extract from a New England school journal:

There are thousands of teachers in our country,—too many of them in the most cultivated centres of school life,—who are destined to failure from the narrowness of their professional outlook. They read no book on the art of instruction; they neglect the study, that keeps the mind alive, they have money enough for social entertainments and personal adornment, but not a cent for an educational journal. They are living in almost complete ignorance of the great stir in the school-life of the land. Now and then, through the daily paper or an accidental collision with a rough critic, they learn that there is a great deal of fault found with the teachers, and a tremendous hubbub over the schools. But all this is treated like a thunderstorm, or any disagreeable state of the elements,—simply as a warning to get indoors, close the shutters, make yourself comfortable, and let things rage outside. Too many of our young women-teachers who have excellent stuff in them, and are capable of a vigorous push for self-culture and true professional success, are now suffering from this narrowness of outlook. They are putting on fine airs of personal dignity in the face of this storm of criticism, and treating all public exception to their work as a personal affront to themselves. We know many a high-strung and really charming young schoolma'am who puts the public, by whose favor she stands in the school-room and by whose money she lives, on the same footing as the forward young gentleman who pushes his attentions freely, or ventures on a remark not flattering to her personal pride. The spectacle of a spirited young lady in the teacher's desk affecting to snub the town or city whose public official she is, shirking the institute and the convention, too busy about her own private affairs to read professional books, or even to join a club that subscribes for an educational paper, is not inspiring.

The thing that should be done by at least a hundred thousand American teachers, this month, is to subscribe for a good educational journal. There they will learn what the superior part of the American people are saying about them and their schools. They will see there against what odds the friends of the best education are contending, and realize how many unfriendly tendencies are conspiring to block the wheels of popular intelligence and stay the coming of new light to the republic. There they will see their own weakness, even the most unpleasant qualities of their own personality, reflected in a mirror that is their best friend in revealing them as they are. They will find there the heartiest and the most thoughtful and delicate recognition of their merits—a hand stretched out as they are about to sink in the slough of despond—a word of good cheer for a dark day—a tender whisper of consolation for a hidden sorrow—a friend that will come to them every week, or month, and lift them out of the narrowness of the present into an ideal realm of aspiration and cheerful hope. Many a teacher owes her awakening to a new professional life, and her final achievement of genuine success to the few dollars she was persuaded to invest in educational journals. No little mistress is too poor or obscure, no great master is too busy or famous, to afford to dispense with such a mirror of the educational world of to-day. Begin the school-year by investing in this mirror, and study yourself in it every morning and evening as the days go on.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

A very general opinion is expressed by High School supporters that it is difficult to see on what grounds, other than the merest sentiment, Upper Canada College is to be maintained at the public expense in the face of the indisputable fact that better work is done at the High Schools throughout the Province. As to the argument put forward in some quarters that it is expedient to maintain it as a school for those boys "of the

upper class" who would otherwise be sent to school in England, that is only calling in Snobbery to defend Injustice. We want no "schools for the upper classes" maintained at the expense of this Province. If "the upper class" want such a school, let them pay for it themselves. But the fact of it is, as has been shown in a trenchant article in the current *Bystander*, the English aristocratic school cannot be reproduced here. Its peculiar faults, among which Mr. Goldwin Smith enumerates idleness and extravagance—he might have added cynical morals and subserviency to rank—are the very faults most objectionable in Canadian life. It seems to be the belief of those best qualified to judge, that Upper Canada College cannot be tolerated except, as we suggest, it be utilized in the very capacity to which it is exactly suited—as a Ladies' College for Ontario.

"EDUCATION."

It is an evidence of the increased attention given to the development of the science of education, that an international magazine has been established by Mr. Thomas W. Bicknell, of Boston, bearing the title "Education," and having for its contributors nearly every living educational writer of note. The two numbers already issued are volumes of great value, and contain articles written by men eminent in their departments on most of the great educational questions of the day.

We hope that every teachers' association in Canada will subscribe for a copy, and that many Canadian teachers will realize how greatly it will be to their advantage to read this magazine. Even financially, to look at the question from no higher standpoint, we are convinced that teachers will find themselves improved by it. It costs four dollars per annum, but any teacher who reads it carefully will increase his "market value" to a much greater extent than four dollars a year. Teachers are short-sighted generally in this particular, as there is no other field of labor in which outlay made in improving the ability to do good work is so quickly or so largely repaid.

Mr. Bicknell is deserving of encouragement in his new enterprise, and we advise our readers to secure a sample copy of *Education*.

NEWSPAPER CRITICISM ON SCHOOLS.

The *Thornbury Standard* has an excellent editorial on the Thornbury and Clarksburg schools, giving an account of a visit to those institutions by the editor. The article is sensible, and has the great merit of being critical without puffing. A word in season is addressed to the School Trustees on the evil of frequent change of teachers. It were devoutly to be wished that the journals of Canada would more frequently make editorial comment on educational matters. Much good would be effected—in particular the influence of the press as one of our greatest moral agencies would be strengthened by its criticism of the one public question which is outside the