

THE LANGUAGE QUESTION

To the Editor of *The Gazette*.

Sir. — In Mr. Phalen's excellent article on "The Causes of Disunion", he makes a slight mistake in reference to the Gaelic language in the Highlands of Scotland. I know of no coercion for the suppression of the Gaelic language. There have been schools established in the Highlands where the reading lessons have all been in Gaelic. Gaelic is still preached in some churches in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The chief cause of the misunderstanding about Gaelic and French is the foolish idea that these languages are of no use. Nothing is more likely to exasperate a Gaelic speaking Highlander than to notice a Lowlander laugh at a Gaelic song and then expect the Highlander to get enthusiastic about broad Scotch, which is really old English — in other words a German dialect. No more foolish cry can be taken up than the one school one language theory. Our Quebec system is much better than the Ontario system. Instead of one school and one language, a much better idea is "the more languages a man speaks the more time he is a man." No person can be considered educated, who can speak only one language. Gaelic, French, Latin, Greek, Italian, Spanish, etc., have close affinity to each other, as English, German, Dutch and Norwegian languages have with each other. The rub comes in when some people who can speak only one language and that often imperfectly, wish other people to speak only one language and that their language. Unfortunately, some people that ought to know better are getting ashamed of the Gaelic language, instead of teaching it to their children as they ought to do.

Norman MURRAY.

NOTICE

Part 2 will contain further illustrations of Orange folly and fanaticism, the Protestant Reign of Terror in Scotland copied from Busk, *The Daughter persecutes the Mother*.