

the Minister should see to the rectification of the blunder that has this year been made. The Latin paper, too, was of an outrageous length. The quality is excellent, but the quantity is highly objectionable. The Chemistry papers were excellent; but the Metals are prescribed for First Class Candidates, and neither this year nor last was there a single question on the subject. All were on the non-metallic elements. Either the metals should be dropped from the programme, or the examiner should test in them also the knowledge of the candidates.

THE SUSPENSION OF "THE CANADIAN MONTHLY."

THOSE of our readers who are familiar with the character and work of our national magazine, *The Canadian Monthly*, will, we doubt not, have learned with regret of its suspension with the number for June last. The magazine had completed its twenty-first volume, and, admittedly, has been of great service in the interest of Canadian literature. The necessity for its withdrawal by the publishers is a matter that every intelligent and patriotic Canadian must deplore. After its lengthened career and creditable record, one would have thought that it had earned a right to substantial support, and, however limited the field of sale and whatever the competition it might have from abroad, that its future would have been assured. But suspension has belied hope, and proved, despite the material progress of the country, how far we are as yet from sustaining a purely literary magazine in Canada. It is not for the present writer to extol what has been done by the magazine in furthering the intellectual life of the Dominion, and in providing a vehicle for the expression of its thought and opinion. Whatever aid the literary forces of the nation have received, there will be some faithfully to acknowledge. Already many friendly words have been spoken, and much kindly comment passed upon the work which editor and contributors have wrought in the magazine. The one regret is, that the work has been interrupted, and may not be resumed. There is truth, as well as kind

appreciation, in the remarks of the editor of the *Mail* on the *Monthly's* suspension, which we here append:—"The magazine has not failed for want of talent, but for want of population, for want of capital, for want of active literary interest among our people; and because the taste for politics absorbs very largely the attention of the average Canadian. Looking back over the volumes, we can recall an amount of good writing in prose and verse greater in proportion than has appeared in magazines over the border which have had great financial success. In fact the aim of the editor was too high; and his contributors so much in earnest, and so desirous of doing their best, that they narrowed the field of intellectual interest and ignored the readers who are greatest in numbers, who are *not* intellectual at all, and who want only to be amused. There is more scholarship, more literary skill, more true poetical talent, in any given volume of this unsuccessful magazine, than could be found in any given volume of most magazines of its mixed character." Professor Goldwin Smith, while paying a compliment to the recent management of the *Monthly*, has also just borne testimony to its value, in us having given an impulse, "not only to the activity of Canadian pens, but to the independence of Canadian minds."

NOTES—LITERARY AND PERSONAL.

THE value of books containing examples of common blunders in diction is frequently called in question. In our opinion, however, correctness in English Composition can be largely promoted by furnishing instances of incorrect or inelegant English; and the interest manifested in Hodgson's "Errors in the Use of English," to which we called the attention of the profession in our issue for April, would seem to endorse our view of the matter. Hodgson's work should be in the hands of every English master. For Public School teachers we can also heartily recommend an admirable collection of "Exercises in English Grammar and Composition," by Mr. David Salmon, which