

against the commercial dishonour to literature, in putting under the covers of one book material so utterly incongruous as a political pamphlet of Burke and a poetical creation of Scott. For this expression of book-making taste, as well as for other gifts in publishing, we presumedly have to thank Messrs. Gage. Success in trade, it has been affirmed, rarely exerts a favourable influence on dignity of character: it has to be added that, in the publishing field, it sometimes fails to exalt the sense of literary propriety. But success has spoilt more, and shall we say better? men than publishers; it is to be feared that in Canada it is extending its deteriorating influence to those who, under wholesomer conditions, might creditably pose as authors. The recent craze for native editions of English classics, and the facilities given for their introduction and use in the schools of the Province, have much to answer for. Many of these Canadian texts (and we are not specially referring to Mr. Millar's work) do industry credit at the expense of honesty. In not a few instances, everything is put under tribute but their editor's brains. They are compilations, the sources of which are seldom acknowledged, and the piecing together is sometimes fearful and wonderful work. It would, of course, be unfair to expect much from men who have served no apprenticeship to letters, who have had limited education or possess little originality of mind, and who have indifferent libraries to assist them in their labour. For these and other drawbacks we are most ready to make all allowance. But when the literature of a country is shaping itself, and when education is unduly forcing the mental activities, it is well to be jealous of any attempt to foist poor or watered work upon the community, and to see to it that those who take to authorcraft have aptitude for their task and will not leave their conscience behind in undertaking it. The apportioning to this man and the other of work which is to find its sole remuneration in the schools, is, we know, a legacy from the bureaucratic era of the Education Department. But the school-book literature of

to-day should be emancipated from the favour of officialism. Text-books that have the aid of successful wirepulling to disseminate them stand the more in need of examination and criticism. The duty is still more imperative when publishers vaunt their success to conceal their defects.

"WILLING TO WOUND, BUT
AFRAID TO STRIKE."

"ONE reason" we are told "for the success of Satan in the dominion of this world is the absolute intellectual singleness of his purpose." He wastes no force in hesitating; he has no compunction; and he never suffers

* "GAGE'S PRACTICAL SPELLER.—Correct typography (syllabication doesn't matter) is of the greatest importance in school books, and it is more necessary in the speller than in any other (speller) except the dictionary. It has been the earnest desire of the publishers of the "Practical Speller" (since the publication of the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY'S critique on the work in the number for last December) to make it absolutely free from errors, and in this they (fondly but foolishly) believe they have succeeded. The proof sheets have been subjected to the most thorough revision (N. B. Subsequent to the appearance of the MONTHLY'S review!) by different persons, one of them a skilled proof reader (but not 'up' in syllabication) who has worked on (note this elegant phrase!) both Worcester's and Webster's dictionaries. With a view to the detection of defects (observe the alliteration!) in the latest edition, if such there be, (oh, surely not after the labours of the skilled proof reader!) they (i.e. the 'different persons' who have been revising the work) offer a reward of one dollar for each word found to be incorrectly spelt (how much for each word *wrongly syllabicated*!) the reward to go to the first person (one is always the second, of course!) who calls attention to any particular error (error by what standard in lexicography?)

"The best answer to the attempt of the literary 'smellfungus' of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY (This complimentary phrase is applied to us in lieu of a cheque for \$200 for our services in pointing out the huge mass of errors in the 1st and 2nd editions of the work) to prejudice the book is the fact that though it is only a year and a half since its first publication, the sixth edition is now on the press. (Query, who has seen the fourth edition?—that ordinal number seems not to be known to the publishers.—a jump was made from the 3rd to the 5th edition.) The last edition was one of 5,000 copies (where did they find a market?)—the book is not authorized for use in the schools of Ontario!), and these have been all disposed of (gratis) within three months. No book ever issued from the Canadian press has met with more signal (dis-) approval from teachers than this (—this? the *School Journal*!). We refer to these matters, not for the purpose of advertising a book that needs no special notice (because unworthy of it!), but to defeat the sinister purpose (we write with our right hand) of a hireling scribbler (it is not true!) We do our own writing, and have no hired amanuensis!), whose remarks of last month show that he is willing to wound (his own sensitiveness) but (not) afraid to strike (deceit)."—From Editorial (with illustrative comments of our own) in the "School Journal" for November.