

The proof is becoming more alarmingly evident every day, that the instruction generally given in Ecclesiastical parish schools, does not fit the youth to perform even the ordinary duties of every day life under a free responsible government.

Richmond, C. E., 17th Feby., 1866.

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THE COUNCIL,—ITS EDICT, &C.

The great multiplicity of school books has often taxed the patience and the purses of many a parent; and has helped to defeat the best efforts of many a faithful teacher.

It has been supposed by many, that one of the chief objects of the Council of Public Instruction, by its recent book-order, was to secure a uniformity of books for the public schools.

Let me appeal to parents and practical teachers to decide from the following whether the late edict of the Council will even tend to secure the much desired uniformity.

ARITHMETICS.

The Council has already recommended the three following Arithmetics for common schools alone:—

1. Arithmetic of the Irish National series.
2. Walkingham's Arithmetic, and
3. Sangster's Elementary Arithmetic.

Every teacher acquainted with either of these works, will decide without hesitation,—that there must be had for use, besides these, at least an introductory arithmetic for beginners; and since these are recommended as adapted for elementary schools only,—it follows that there must be one more added to the list for model schools and academies.

Here, then, are three different arithmetics for common schools alone, constructed on very different plans, without the advantages of a graduated series, by three different authors, and requiring to be prefixed by an elementary book besides. One teacher will direct the pupils to purchase the Irish arithmetic,—the next winter another teacher will tell them they must get Walkingham's, for he thinks they have used that plebeian book clad in cotton-cloth long enough; and the succeeding teacher will prefer Sangster's, among other reasons, because it is Upper Canadian. So it will go, unless the parents, or some other authorities, take the matter into their own hands,—Council or no Council.

GEOGRAPHIES.

Two works on geography have already been approved, namely,—

- 1.—Lovell's General Geography for Common Schools, Model Schools, and Academies.