

CORRESPONDENCE.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of THE MONTHLY :

SIR,—I am not a supporter of Separate Schools, nor am I prepared to say that they are a necessity in Canada, but I must confess that I read with a degree of astonishment the argument in favour of their abolition by Mr. B. F. Bolton, Skead's Mills, in your last issue. Mr. Bolton's home is presumably in the Province of Ontario, or I would have been bound to assume that he lived in some far-off country, and had enjoyed none of the educational advantages which we in this part of the world possess. His contentions regarding the responsibility for the existence of Separate Schools certainly give evidence of either marked unfairness or dense ignorance on his part. He tells us that the Separate Schools are the product of the Government of Ontario, and he labours hard to bring the Government of Ontario into disrepute because of their existence. Surely no intelligent man needs to be told that the maintenance of Separate Schools for Catholics in this Province

and Protestants in Quebec was a plank in the Act of Confederation, as drawn up under the supervision of Sir John Macdonald, and that but for the guarantees therein contained the consolidation of the Provinces into a Dominion would have been impossible. I do not now intend to discuss the rightfulness or wrongfulness of this arrangement, but there it stood on the statute book years before the Government of Hon. Oliver Mowat took the reins of power. This your correspondent should have known. He should have known, too, that if the Separate Schools are ever abolished it must be by an Imperial Act of Parliament, and on petition of the Dominion Government. It would be about as reasonable to blame the Ontario Government for the disestablishment of the Irish Church as for the establishment of Separate Schools. The Government of Ontario has but administered the trust imposed upon it by the Act of Confederation.

Yours, etc.,

J. D. CLARKE.

London, Nov. 8, 1890.

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE National Educational Association of the United States of America is to hold its next annual meeting in Toronto, beginning on the 14th of July. The Ontario Teachers' Association is to meet at the same time and in the same place. Such a gathering cannot fail to be of great advantage to the highest interests of education.

A MEETING of High School Teachers and those interested in High School work will be held in Toronto

on December 30th, at 7:30. The business of this meeting will be to consider the question of forming an association of High School teachers only, or an association of High School teachers and all others interested in Secondary Education, with the different associations already formed (the Science, the Modern Language and the Classical Associations), and any others that may be formed, as sections thereof. It is not proposed that the connection of the High School teach-