

THE NEW EDITION OF WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY.

In this, the last quarter of the nineteenth century, there is happily little occasion to urge upon those charged with the important duty of education, the need of a good dictionary, not only for their own edification, but also that they may be in a proper position to impart accurate information to their pupils. Of dictionaries there are many, all possessing good points in a greater or lesser degree; but of such works, sufficiently comprehensive in range of information brought down to the present day, works which a teacher may consult for needed information, conclusive and exhaustive in their nature, yet not very expensive, there are comparatively few.

There is, as we have already said, little need to impress upon teachers the importance of possessing a standard on all philological matters, especially as those who are desirous of attaining to the highest rank in their profession feel that arduous study and constant application are necessary to keep them fully informed in the science of language—a science which during the last two decades has made wonderful progress. Indeed, to such an extent is this the case, that, in a great measure, we have now a new language—a statement vouched for by the publishers of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which contains not less than 3,000 words not found in any other American work of the kind. In both England and America enormous research has been made, by men peculiarly fitted for the work, for the benefit of the new edition.

The literature of the ancients and the writings of the modern times have been carefully examined and the result is a great addition to our information concerning the derivation, meaning and use of language, which could not be obtained at any former period. The results of all this labour and far more than is here mentioned are embodied in the New Edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which, as a defining orthographic and pronouncing dictionary, may be regarded as a standard authority in the English Language. The work has received the highest commendation from all classes of educated men, and we have great pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers, and especially of the teachers of the Province, to this admirable work. The portly volume before us contains 2,000 large quarto pages.

Since the issue of the previous edition, it is understood that competent gentlemen have been constantly employed, receiving contributions, maintaining a wide correspondence, and collecting materials from all quarters, for the further perfection of the volume. The results appear in this new edition, and although not spread over a large additional surface, must embody no small amount of literary labor.