

we set before our readers the merits of the same publishers' text book on Botany, and in acknowledgment we had our kindness thrown in our face. Just how to deal with Messrs. Gage & Co. it would be difficult to say. We want to do right, and to do and say the proper things in the proper way. Yet, whether we praise or blame, our reviews are referred to as the "ludicrously unjust criticisms" of the MONTHLY. How far our work deserves to be thus spoken of, let certain facts concerning the "Practical Speller" and the new "English Readers" bear witness.

To take the latter first, it will be remembered that in our April issue we exposed the utter unsuitableness of the series for use in Canadian schools. What follows, but the dispatch of the books to a literary infirmary for treatment—the diagnosis revealing "general debility and the entire break-up of the system." The "Speller," some little time before, had been under our hands, and was found to suffer from "rickets and other constitutional defects." It, too, was sent to the hospital to be operated upon.

Taking up the *School Journal* the other day, we were gratified to find that the "Speller," presumably convalescent, was abroad again. Naturally, our readers will believe us, we sought our friend out to congratulate him, and found him yet far from well, though he had the doctor's certificate of "a sure cure" pinned to his person. Doubtful of the cure, we read the hospital bulletin, which affirmed that "Gage's *Practical Speller* is now the most correct *Manual of Spelling* offered to Canadian teachers;" in proof of which it is announced that it is able to be printed on "Callendered (two 11's!) paper," which should, of course, dispel all increduloussness.

Still dubious, we perused a special certificate, which read in this wise: "In order that this popular *Manual for Spelling and Dictation* should be *entirely free from errors*, we have had the plates recast (a graceful endorsement of the "ludicrously unjust criticisms" of the MONTHLY), and at the same time had the proofs read by the best au-

thority on the American Continent—a gentleman whose experience as proof-reader of Worcester's and Webster's Dictionaries is a guarantee of *perfect accuracy*."

What we have yet to relate will not be found complimentary to "the best authority on the American Continent." A few minutes' test of "perfect accuracy" led to our docketing the above away in our collection of "quack advertisements," and to our confidentially informing our "nearest and dearest" that we had no faith in man! Need we add, that until the firm try the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY specifics, we despair of the restoration to health of "Gage's Practical Spelling Book."

#### HIGH SCHOOL MASTERS AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

WITH the general notion that all teachers in our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes should have experience in teaching before beginning work in these Institutions, few will be disposed to quarrel. The more likely is this to be the case when we bear in mind how much of the training of our teachers is now done by the Secondary Schools. Therefore, one of the changes made by Mr. Crooks, for which something can be said, is the one requiring that all teachers in High Schools shall be teachers of a certain professional standing. Without any reservation, this is true as regards the heads of these schools. When we consider the responsibilities, the onerous duties, the delicate matters these gentlemen have to bear and deal with, manifestly it is a necessity for the well-being of the country that these masters should not only be men of learning and academic training, men of experience in the school-room, but also men of integrity and keen sense of honour. This being the case, we ask for them freedom from officialism by the Department, and intelligent support by local authorities. But it is a different matter when assistant masters are concerned. We are inclined to think that the Minister has been impolitic in requiring that each subordinate master is to have a first-class professional