

## SCHOOL WORK.

DAVID ROYLE, ELORA, EDITOR.

## THE BOY'S OWN PAPER.

WE cannot too highly commend the *Boy's Own Paper* for perusal by the youth of Canada. It is intended to displace such trash as the *Boys of England* and the *Boys of New York*, not so much by assuming a tone of goody-goodness, or even by any ostentatious display of morality, as by its common sense, robust treatment of subjects likely to interest young people, wholly apart from "blood and thunder."

We have always regarded the "Correspondence" columns as the weakest portion of this otherwise excellent publication. If, as we are assured, the "correspondence" paragraphs are genuine *replies*, good taste and a knowledge of boy-nature ought to suggest to the editor of this department some regard for the feelings of his querists. Insulting insinuations are quite out of place. Replies should be given smartly, but not smartingly.

In the last number of the last part, p. 352, the following is given in answer to an Orillia correspondent, "It is of the nature of things that amongst our army of readers a few of strong feelings and *weak intellect* will be found. *We sympathize with you in your affliction*, and trust that as you grow older the folly and ignorance which you mistake for patriotism will decrease." The italics are ours, and we submit that the tone of the reply throughout is not in keeping with the character of the journal.

Nor is the information in these columns always correct. The following caught our eye, owing to its local interest (*vide* p. 336):

"The latest survey reports that Lake Superior is 335 miles in length, and its greatest breadth, 160 miles; mean depth, 688 ft.; elevation, 827 ft.; area, 82,000 square miles (!). The greatest length of Lake Michigan is 300; its greatest breadth, 108 miles; but it is generally very narrow as compared with Lake Superior; mean depth, 690 ft.; elevation,

506 ft.; area, 23,000 square miles. The greatest length of Lake Huron is 300 miles; its greatest breadth, 60 miles; mean depth, 600 ft.; elevation, 254 ft.; area, 20,000 square miles. The greatest length of Lake Erie is 250 miles; its greatest breadth, 80 miles; mean depth, 84 ft.; elevation, 261 ft.; area, 6,000 square miles. The greatest length of Lake Ontario is 180 miles; its greatest breadth is 65 miles; its mean depth is 500 feet; area, 6,000 square miles. The total of these five great lakes is 1,265 miles, covering an area of upwards of 135,000 square miles."

It would not be easy to mix figures in a worse manner. Think of it! Superior is nearly 200 ft. higher than Michigan, and more than 400 ft. higher than Huron, both of which are on the same level. Even this is not so bad as to be informed that the water flowing from Huron rises 7 ft. to reach Erie, and that there is no difference at all in the elevation of Erie and Ontario, notwithstanding the existence between these two of a little cascade known to the natives as Niagara!

It is because we wish the *Boy's Own Paper* success that we grieve so much to notice the banter and ignorance of the "Correspondence" columns. We shall be happy to receive additions to our club list for supplying the MONTHLY and the *Boy's Own Paper* to every teacher and every school in Ontario.

## THEORY AND PRACTICE IN DISCIPLINE.

How many teachers are there, we wonder, whose theory of discipline and their practice harmonize? Are you one of the few consistent ones, reader? We have, most of us, read of the Hoosier schoolmaster who said, "*Moral suasion* is my theory, but *licking* is my practice." With many teachers whom we know nearly as grave an inconsistency pre-