

A SCANDALOUS CIRCULAR.*

WE have more than once had to call attention to the persistent tampering with the honour of the profession on the part of a Toronto publishing house whose questionable advertising arts and unconscionable greed lead it systematically to tempt Inspectors and Teachers to violate the Regulation of the Education Department against acting as paid agents for publishers. The latest operation of the firm in question will be seen from the subjoined circular, which has been sent us by an indignant Public School Inspector who resents being "approached" by this or any other firm in the manner indicated, and deems it "a righteous discharge of public duty" to disregard its confidential character, and expose its insidious attack upon professional rectitude and official propriety.

This new call, to hawk through the Inspectorate a trade organ, by a publishing house having intimate relations with the Education Department and the Central Committee, can surely not be sanctioned by the Minister of Education, who professes, in the stringent law he has drawn up for the guidance of the profession, to keep Teachers from being made the tools of greed and the serfs of an empty pocket. But we are not sure on this point, as this new attack on the morals of the profession is so kin to the other advertising arts of the house in question—such as making gifts to the Inspectors of books published by the firm, and the *free* distribution, where the favour will do most good, of another *quasi*-professional organ owned by the house—gratuities which are so freely spoken of, and in many instances

denounced, that we can hardly think that the corrupt practice is unknown to the Minister. Of course, it may and doubtless will be said, that this is no concern of ours, and still less would it be, if the publishers of the *School Journal* and *Examiner* issued their serials for nothing. But this would only be true in the latter case, for we should not then see honest men tampered with, and solicited to tout in the name of Education for a journal which takes one dollar from a fellow-teacher to put half of it, as a *douceur*, in his own pocket and the other half in that of the publisher. The effrontery of the firm in this matter is the more apparent when it is recalled that the announcement emanates from a publishing concern which proclaims from the housetop its regard for the teacher and its scrupulous consideration for his pocket—protestations significantly indicated by charging him a dollar for what the house itself appraises at fifty cents—the balance to be illegally used to corrupt him who would rob, in the interest which both have at heart, his fellow-teacher of the difference. No wonder that our correspondent speaks of the proposal as "an insult to his official position, and a personal affront to himself." It is to be hoped that the Minister will act in this matter. It is quite time to suppress such scandalous tampering with the profession, and to save the teacher from his "friends."

FROM some Regulations published the other day by Mr. Crooks, we conclude that one class of students who fail at their professional examination will be ruled out of the profession altogether. This is as it should be, provided the students have proper training. It will only hasten the reorganization of the Toronto Normal School to have this regulation carried into effect, for it is improbable that under the change of circumstances the young men and women who are now brought to Toronto to fritter away their time will tamely submit to the continuance of the grievances of which they complain. It is a sore disgrace to Ontario, that its principal training school should have so long remained inefficient.

* PRIVATE.—Toronto, February 1st, 1881.—Dear Sir,—We have mailed to you a specimen copy of an attractive new periodical, *Gage's School Examiner and Monthly Review*, and shall be pleased to have your opinion of its merits, as well as your influence in its favour among the Teachers in your Inspectorate. The price is one dollar per annum. We are anxious to obtain some one in every county to push its sale, to whom we are prepared to allow a liberal commission, viz., fifty per cent., (50%). If you cannot see your way to take up the matter yourself, we shall be greatly obliged by your kindly recommending a smart, live man, among the Teachers in your county, who will undertake to press the introduction of the paper. We are, yours faithfully, W. J. Gage & Co.