

certain members of the Central Committee, are also the authors of School Manuals, a superstructure of denunciation which is so much in excess of the ground it rests on, as to show that all this assumption of interest in Education is only the sorry political trick of mud-throwing at opponents whom it cannot otherwise injure. We will examine the grounds on which it justifies its remarkable bursts of rhetoric—"abominations," "ring of conspirators," and other such expressions, scarcely compatible with the dignity of a first-class journal, and in the present instance only justifiable on the maxim of the French philosopher who said "Mentons, mentons, il y a restora toujours."

Well, then, the accusation when put into plain words amounts to this: some of the Central Committee have written books. It has hitherto been the cue of the *Mail* to decry the quality of the books in question. But that can hardly be done any longer in the face of the fact that of late months these Manuals have received the emphatic approval of all the leading educational journals and many leading educators in Great Britain and in America, and that they have been republished again and again, in several cities in the States. The *Mail's* entire scheme for reconstructing the Department hinges on its claim that no author of a school manual is to be a member of the Advisory Committee, for it suggests that the Central Committee be swept away, and replaced by something very like the old Council of Public Instruction, with Mr. Goldwin Smith, and others not named, as members. But this self-denying ordinance would exclude Mr. Goldwin Smith himself, who was a member of the Council of Public Instruction after he had published his *Lectures on History*. Cowper's Task will soon be one of the text books for examination, and we should be sorry indeed that the virulence of political animus should force on the Education Department an arbitrary rule which would deprive that Department of the right to select as member of an advisory body such a man as Mr. Goldwin Smith, merely because he is the author of one of the best aids to understanding the Task which the student could employ, his admirable *Life of Cowper*.

HIGH SCHOOL ADVERTISING.

We are glad to acknowledge the receipt of several letters from masters in Collegiate Institutes and High Schools and from others, heartily endorsing the views expressed in the November and December numbers of the JOURNAL concerning the system of advertising practised by certain Principals, especially by the Principal of Hamilton Collegiate Institute. The following quotation from a letter sent by the Principal of a Collegiate Institute fairly represents the opinions of others who have written to us:—"I am satisfied the course Hamilton Collegiate Institute has taken in inducing students to leave parts of the province where there are good schools, is causing a great deal of dissatisfaction among many of the masters of institutes and schools. You could advocate no more popular views than those you have lately expressed in the JOURNAL, and I shall

have much pleasure in doing what I can in January to get up a large club in this county. The tactics which some are pursuing in drawing students are in my judgment *infra dig.*, and will do a great deal of harm if teachers do not frown down such as entirely unprofessional." We do not object to announcements of the dates of opening schools, with a statement of the names of the masters in the various departments, fees charged, etc., but protest most earnestly against puffing circulars intended to give the school a fictitious reputation, and mislead intending students, who are often induced to incur large expenses by leaving home to attend an institution which cannot give them so thorough a training as the High School or Collegiate Institute near home. Perhaps the most unfair method of trying to undermine other schools, and gather students from the districts of fellow-teachers, is the issuing of a "magazine," so that inexperienced young people may accept the puffs given in it as the opinion of "that mysterious personage," the editor. We are glad to know that such advertising is now pretty generally understood, and that high school masters are not likely to continue to aid in securing the up-building of any one school at their own expense. We insert in another column a letter on this subject from "A Teacher," whose experience is feelingly related, and refer our readers to the report of the St. Thomas Institute for further confirmation of our views.

CO-EDUCATION AND A COLLEGE FOR LADIES.

On this most interesting question much may be urged upon either side. It is a pressing one, of immediate practical interest, and our columns will be open to letters on either side, although we do not wish to commit this journal to a decision which might prove hasty. As Mr. Mulvaney has said, in a letter in advocacy of co-education in our present issue, all interested in female education owe a debt of gratitude to the President of the University for having some time ago delivered a course of very interesting lectures on the subject, chiefly, however, to the ladies of the wealthier class in Toronto. The opinions of such a man are worth mature consideration—they are well expressed in a paper in the *Canadian Journal* of November, 1869, well deserving of consideration just now, some portions of which we hope to submit to our readers, as an aid to their judgment on the subject. In the course of this paper, Dr. Wilson lays the greatest stress on the need of a Ladies' College. In the December CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL we offered a solution of the difficulty which had not been put forward in any other journal, that the Upper Canada College should be utilized as a Ladies' College for the Province. This would meet all the requirements of the case. The University, we are confident, with the full and willing co-operation of one so forward in every good work as its President, would do all strictly University work for the Ladies' College, such as holding examinations and granting degrees—that of Lady Bachelor not of necessity connoting celibacy. The suggestion thus made with regard to Upper Canada College, we regard as one of great practical value. It gave us pleasure to see a similar proposal in the January *Bystander*.