

the province. Anything, therefore, tending to reduce its representative character, or to throw it into the hands of a clique, however able and respectable, must be injurious to the association in particular, and to public education in general. It cannot add to the prestige or dignity of the association to have its members openly adopt the methods of the ward politician. A few men should not be allowed to trail its fair reputation in the dust, rob it of its best characteristics, kill the free exchange of thought at its meetings, and block the only channel our teachers at large have for giving expression to a common opinion.

Well did "Bystander" write in the letter referred to, and well may it be applied to the actions of those who manipulated the ticket elected at the last convention. "Plain honesty is no match for professional skill . . . virtue is admirable, but it is cunning that triumphs."

Plainly then if my charges were true it is a grave matter, and, indeed, it would be a grave matter to make such charges were they not true.

In connection with this there is

ONE SIGNIFICANT FACT

that cannot have escaped the notice of so astute an observer as "Bystander," viz., that no attempt was made to refute my statements. No member rose in his place and stated that these things could not be so. What! was there not a storm of disapproval from a certain part of the hall? Did not certain gentlemen try to howl the speaker down? Yea, truly, but that did not commit them to anything, and be it noted that not one of the gentlemen who had raised such an outcry, rose to say that he at least had not convened a meeting of his subordinate teachers or laid the printed ticket before them. I wonder why! Well,

but did not Dr. Robins and Mr. Rexford reply? Dr. Robins and Mr. Rexford, it is true, both spoke after I did, presumably in reply to me, but while I have no desire to add to or take away from anything these estimable friends of mine said, I cannot remember and the reporters do not seem to have discovered, that either of them attempted to controvert my statements. Dr. Robins stated a fact patent to all—that I am a taller man than he is—he then as usual referred to his skill as an educationist, but had not one word of condemnation for the open lobbying, while Mr. Rexford's reply consisted of a bitter attack on Mr. Truell. Neither of these gentlemen said that if their names had been used as I publicly stated they had been, it had been done without their knowledge or consent. Surely this was a fitting time and place for such denials.

A circumstance which makes

THE CAUCUS STILL MORE REPREHENSIBLE

is the nature of the relation existing between the subordinate teachers and the headmasters of the city schools on the one hand, and the superintendent of schools for Montreal on the other. The headmasters each year send to the superintendent a report regarding their subordinate teachers; these reports, the teachers believe to have no little influence on their tenure of office. What liberty of action then was left them when they were told by the headmasters that the superintendent, in company with the Principal of the Normal School and the Rector of the High School, had been concerned in concocting the ticket that was laid before them. When we consider this in connection with the fact that ballot papers were secured before the convention took place, it ceases to be a small matter. Do these gentlemen