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Editorial Notes.

WE have received, too late for extended notice in this issue, a copy of the new edition of "Statutes and Regulations Governing the Public and High Schools of the Province of Ontario." In our next number we shall be able to give a full explanation and summary of all changes and notifications that have not already been noticed in our columns.

WE wish again to thank the many friends who are sending us lessons and papers on various practical subjects, and to ask them to pardon the necessary delay in the publication of many of them. These volunteer contributions are coming to constitute an important and valuable part of the paper. We hope they will continue to do so, and to a still greater extent. We will publish them as fast as we can find room. We have never before been so well supplied with matter of this kind, and are both gratified and grateful accordingly.

"GET a boy morally straight and his intellect will look out for itself." So said Principal Parkin, in his speech at the recent reunion of the Old Boys of Upper Canada College. The epigrammatic sentence contains a truth which is well worth pondering by all who have to do with the education of boys. The moral faculty is, or is intended to be, the sovereign authority in the little state of man. The moral forces are by nature the driving and regulating forces by which, and by which alone, the whole machinery of mind can be driven steadily and harmoniously. Dr. Parkin's sententious maxim is worthy to take place as an educational aphorism.

WE call the attention of our subscribers and all who have business dealings with THE JOURNAL to the fact that the corporate name and style of the publishers has been abbreviated from "The Educational Journal Publishing Company" to "The Educational Publishing Company." All business communications of every kind should henceforth be sent to the latter address. Matter for publication or notice

in the columns of the paper should, of course, as heretofore, be addressed to the Editor. Time and trouble will be saved if all questions requiring answers in THE JOURNAL, when they belong to a special department, *e.g.*, the Mathematical, the Scientific, etc., be sent directly to the editor of that special department. Questions relating to Entrance or Public School Leaving work, and all matter intended for THE ENTRANCE JOURNAL, should be addressed to the editor of that paper, at this office.

At the South Grey Teachers' Convention the unprofessional and dishonorable practice of underbidding and undermining teachers was unsparingly denounced, and at the request of the convention the president named a committee to draft a resolution deprecating the conduct of those who resort to such practices in their eagerness to secure situations. No odium is cast upon the teacher who offers his services at a low figure where a vacancy has been declared. The convention fully recognized the right of a teacher to make his own terms. As one teacher put it, "one may work for twenty-five cents a year if he wishes, but let him wait for a vacancy." Still, it seems to us that before offering or accepting a very low salary, even where there is a vacancy, the teacher owes it to himself and his fellow-teachers to consider whether he would not thereby be lowering the dignity and average remunerativeness of the profession, and thereby doing the cause of education a real injury.

It is encouraging to note some indications that school boards are likely to receive more attention in the future than they have in the past, in connection with our educational work. The school board is really one of the most important of all the many parts which have to be not only joined together, but nicely adjusted to each other, in order to the harmonious and effective working of our somewhat complicated educational machinery. No other part is more useful. No other has the individual school more completely in

its power, to make or mar. At the West Algoma Teachers' Convention, which met in Fort William in October, Mr. Dobie, of the Port Arthur Public School Board, gave an address on "School Boards and their Functions," which seems to have attracted and merited a good deal of attention. Mr. Dobie defined the functions of the school board to be: (1) To engage the best teachers possible, and to pay them fair salaries; (2) to see that these teachers do their duty; (3) to do all in their power to establish a feeling of sympathy and confidence between teacher and board; (4) to support the teacher in discipline; (5) to encourage the teacher who does good work. If every school board knew its duty and did it, what a prodigious advance would be made in the schools in a single year!

A GOOD deal of attention is, we perceive, being given to the comparative merits of the two systems of penmanship which are now competing for preference in the schools and elsewhere, *viz.*, the Spencerian and the Vertical. We ourselves confess that, setting out with a decided predilection for the former a few years ago, we have come to have a still more decided preference for the latter. The change has been wrought in us partly by weight of argument, but largely by what we have seen of results. These results are judged chiefly on the ground of legibility. The relief we have so often been conscious of in turning from some manuscript which, with its light strokes and slant characters, tried both the eyes and the patience of the reader, to the erect, legible strokes of some unpretentious vertical hand, has been too great to be ignored. We do not say that the Spencerian and related systems may not produce both legibility and beauty, in the hands of a master, but it does seem to us that those who succeed in so far mastering these systems are but the exceptions among the masses who use them. On the other hand, we have known those whose attempts under the old system have been anything but successful, in point of legibility, by unconsciously reverting to an upright style, to achieve very satisfactory results. Hence we have learned to prefer the vertical. But this is by no means an "expert" opinion.