

THE
EDUCATIONAL RECORD
OF THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

No. 10.

OCTOBER, 1888.

VOL. VIII

Articles: Original and Selected.

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE TEACHER.

What manner of man should he be, what manner of woman should she be, whose life is to affect so many young lives with a great power for good or evil, whose spirit is to be imbibed by them, whose moral character is to be impressed upon their moral natures, whose loving and hating is to set the current of their affections, whose taste is to have so much influence in forming tastes, whose intellectual peculiarities are to guide their intellectual activity, whose personal habits are to be a constant help or hindrance in forming good habits, and whose personal bearing is to touch in them the springs of attraction or repulsion?

The teacher and his art are so closely related, the art is so much in the teacher, the use of all the means by which right activity in the child is excited and sustained depend so entirely upon what the teacher is in himself, that we cannot properly consider the art of teaching without first considering the personal qualifications of the teacher.

The unspoken, unconscious influence of the teacher, which gives tone, quality, power to all his instruction, enters so much more deeply into the life of the child than what he says, that we cannot emphasize too strongly the necessity of personal fitness in the teacher for his work. He needs to magnify his work, he must have a high ideal to stimulate him to his best effort or he