

EDITORIAL NOTES.

OUR excellent contemporary, *Queen's College Journal*, is mistaken in supposing we felt an apology due to our readers for the reproduction of Principal Grant's speech on the University Question. We may not agree always with the learned Principal, but we are always glad to see him in THE MONTHLY. *Thracium est, etc.*

DR. GOLDWIN SMITH ON THE VALUE OF THE ANCIENT CLASSICS.

AT the recent convocation, University College, Dr. Goldwin Smith, in presenting the prizes to the successful students in classics, said it was particularly interesting to an old student of classics to present the classical prizes, and still more interesting was it not only to him, but to all those assembled to witness and applaud the first step in what they hoped would be a bright and prosperous career. The winners, and those who had competed with them, were already in possession of what was best—the exercise of mind and the knowledge acquired in the struggle. They were then receiving the prizes which were the fruits and certificates of their exertions. He, as one concerned in the honour of classical education, hoped that they would bring back to the college in abundant measure, by their success in life, the honour which it now conferred on them. He hoped that they might, like many statesmen, and other great men of action, prove to the world that the study of classical literature, which, after all, is the best manual of humanity, is not a bad preparation for the struggles of practical life.

THE READER QUESTION.

THE interminable Reader Question is still unsettled. Various plans all pointing to one series have, we understand, been proposed but have been almost immediately abandoned, owing to the difficulty of harmonizing the conflicting interests of the publishers. Every-

thing points, however, to a composite series; but how, or in what shape that will be ultimately accomplished has not yet been made public. The Premier of the Province has stated in his place in the House that the Government is determined to have but one series if practicable; and we may, therefore, confidently look for some solution to the difficulty that now not only embarrasses the Cabinet but paralyzes the book trade. The matter demands a speedy settlement, not only in the interest of the schools, and of the publishers who have embarked their capital in preparing the books, but of the public who naturally crave a release from harassing rivalries that have turned board-rooms into cock-pits. Meantime we commend to the notice of the authorities the views of Mr. Inspector Smith upon the Reader Question, as presented in his admirable paper, our leading article.

THE HIGH SCHOOL INTER- MEDIATE.

SINCE the death of the educational Chang, Payment by Results, the health of his brother monster Eng, the Intermediate, has been most precarious. There is little vitality in the Intermediate now, and an attack of syncope may any time terminate the career of these Siamese twins of our Provincial system of education. The raree-show is of necessity about over, though the promoters of it insist upon going on with the performance. The public, however, are a-weary and refuse to have their flagging attention aroused, and are quite ready to avow that the contemplation of even theoretical monstrosities is not wholesome or satisfactory. The educational world is ready for the return of the natural, the simple, and the useful. And the public ought to be gratified with a change of scene. The public has been more than kind to the management of the Provincial educational stage. It has paid in full for the entertainment, for the bill-stickers, the orchestra, the