

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE "SCHOOL JOURNAL" AND
MILLAR'S "MARMION."

THE educational periodical world would seem either to be lying in wickedness or the proprietors of the *School Journal* must be specially suffering at present from a relaxation of mental and moral fibre. In the last number of our contemporary the extraordinary statement is made that we are the authors of, or that we instigated, the slashing review on the "Millar Marmion," published by Messrs. Gage & Co., which appeared in the columns of the *Toronto World* for the 28th of September, and that our motive in resorting to that journal as a vehicle of criticism was one of fear. What paralysis of fear does the *School Journal* think we are suffering from? In regard to the "Practical Speller" the journal accused us of cowardice, in being "willing to wound but afraid to strike;" now we are told that "afraid to venture on a criticism on Mr. Millar's high school edition of "*Marmion*" in the MONTHLY, we "have taken refuge in the columns of one of the daily papers of the city." Has our contemporary parted company with its wits, or do its owners aspire to momentary notoriety in a Police Court? Need we say that no one connected with this journal had aught to do with the review in question, or knew anything of the criticism until after it appeared; neither were we privy to its being sent to high school masters, as alleged, nor did we counsel or countenance its dissemination! We make this affirmation, not for the purpose of assuring our contemporary that it is altogether astray in its charge against us, nor to convince it of the folly of measuring us with its own measure, but to call the attention of its publishers to the fact that there are critics in journalism besides ourselves to whom

botch book-making is an unpardonable offence, and who are as free as they are competent to appraise Messrs. Gage's work at its true value. No doubt this is an unpalatable truth to our Wellington Street friends; but it is assuring to those who desire to respect the educational literature of the country.

But the publishers of "Millar's *Marmion*," in fastening upon us the authorship of what they are pleased to call a reckless criticism, needn't suppose that any one mistakes the motive which prompts the indignant outburst. Ashamed of the manner in which the book has been turned out in their hands they wish to divert public attention from the subject of the criticism to its supposed author. This is a ruse they have not now for the first time resorted to; but neither the profession nor the public are likely to be deceived by it. If Mr. Millar is wise, he will also refuse to be duped by the trick. He may, at the same time, dismiss from his mind the idea that any critic has personal ends to serve in denouncing the manner in which Messrs. Gage have produced his book. The abounding typographical errors in the work, and the evident recklessness with which it has been hustled through the press, would justify a more denunciatory criticism than has been passed upon it. But the mechanical blemishes in the work the publishers, in the main, are responsible for; and a knowledge of the fact restrained us from reproducing the review in our columns. What we have gained by our good-natured reticence, we have seen, and the vice of careless and malicious assertion was never more manifest.

As we are not reviewing Mr. Millar's work, we are not called upon to give its publishers the benefit of our criticism. The work having been offensively thrust under our nose, however, we are bound to protest