

especially the women, from the isolation and awful loneliness of life on the prairie at a distance of perhaps miles from a neighbor.

BUT, to whatever extent the energy of the pioneers may enable them to overcome the difficulty in the case of common schools, it is clear that they cannot, by their own unaided efforts, secure High School advantages for a long time to come. It is undesirable, however, that they should be dependent upon the Dominion Government for institutions of this kind, which are beyond the scope of the proper functions of the central authority. The best solution of this, in common with many other problems, will be the organization of the Territories into one or more provinces, as the Council desires, at an early day. Whatever difficulties may be in the way of working the machinery of a local legislature in a country where the distances are so magnificent and the population so sparse, they must be less than those that attend the present system of government by an irresponsible body at a distance of fifteen hundred or two thousand miles, and immersed in more important matters nearer home. Waste, neglect, and absurd blundering are sure to go hand in hand. We hope to see the Territories enjoying "home rule," like other parts of the Dominion, at an early day, with such liberal provision for local administration as will enable them to have efficient schools, both primary and secondary, under their own management.

EVERY teacher of English etymology should furnish himself with a copy of a little work recently prepared by Prof. McElroy, of the University of Pennsylvania. It is an excellent specimen of the application of the inductive method, and the system has this great merit, that it can be indefinitely extended by the teacher himself. All he needs in the shape of assistance, is Skeat's Etymological Dictionary, and he can find materials for investigation in every piece of English prose or verse. Prof. McElroy entitles his book "Essential Lessons in English Etymology." It makes no pretence to exhaustiveness of treatment, the object being to supply the teacher with a method rather than to deluge him with facts. It need hardly be added that it pays quite as much attention to the English element of the English language as it does to its Latin and Greek elements, the author thus showing that he has thoroughly imbibed the spirit of the men who have for the past few years been laboring with zeal and success to place the study of English Philology on a more scientific basis. Such a work as this is the more needed since so little attention is given to the subject of Old English in the Provincial University, where it should find an honored place.

It has been our intention for some time past to urge upon the consideration of our readers the great advantages that would result from the election of a fair proportion of well-qualified women to the trustee boards. We are glad to see that we have been anticipated in this by other journals, and especially by "Onlooker" in the *Canada Citizen*. We have no doubt that there are to be found in all our villages and country districts, as well as in the towns and cities, well educated and energetic ladies, whose presence on the school boards would soon make itself most beneficently felt. If wisely

selected, they would bring to the work a degree of energy, of enthusiasm, and of progressiveness, that would at once elevate the character of the boards, and infuse new life into the schools. In the cities especially, the singleness of purpose which ladies of high culture and character would be sure to bring to the work would be invaluable. In England, notwithstanding its proverbial conservatism in such matters, women have for years been prominent working members of school boards. In London, as is well known, the lady members of the board have displayed a courage in attacking abuses and reforming old-time methods which have brought about most valuable results.

IN New York City a successful movement has been made in favor of the appointment of women to the Board of Education. Mayor Grace has re-appointed but two of the old commissioners, having filled the places vacated by the others with three new men and two women. Commenting on the fact, *Science and Education* says:

"When we consider the character of education in general, the peculiar conditions of public instruction, the fact that a large proportion—not infrequently a majority—of Public School students are girls, and that fully nine-tenths of the Public School teachers are women, the reasons for the presence of women on the boards of education are apparent. Then, too, it is highly probable that the presence of women commissioners will raise the deliberations of a board of education to a higher plane, and lift them out of the political entanglements in which they are too often caught."

All of which applies with full force to the boards of education in Canadian cities.

THE mode of appointment of school boards with us is, strange to say, more democratic than that in New York. But we have sufficient faith in the system of election by the people to believe that, given a suitable list of candidates, and the election freed, as it would be pretty sure to be so far as women candidates are concerned, from the baneful influence of political partizanship, the parents of the children and other ratepayers might be trusted to make as judicious selections as would be made by the average mayor. The following paragraph from *Science and Education* contains some excellent hints in regard to the kind of women that should be chosen:

"In making these particular appointments, Mayor Grace has avoided what would have been a great mistake. He has not appointed any 'cranks' or any professional agitators for 'woman's rights.' At such a time plenty of these persons come forward as candidates, but their appointment would have been turning the whole movement into ridicule. Both of the women chosen by the mayor are of the highest standing, morally, intellectually, and socially. They are neither agitators, nor theorists, but women of pure Christian character, great ability, and, what is quite as essential to a commissioner of education, and common sense. They are both deeply interested in education, and close students of its theory and practice. Distinguished for years in connection with the prominent charities and philanthropic institutions of a great city, we have every reason to predict that the character and talents which they bring to their new and somewhat trying office will elevate and improve its Public School system."

We could wish it were superfluous to add that precisely the same principles should be followed in choosing the male members of the boards.