

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"LIFTING VEILS."

THE candid criticisms upon Canadian school-books and the trade tactics of some of their publishers which have now and again appeared in this magazine, together with the many articles we have published on our educational administration and its machinery, would seem to have formed not the least of the healthy stimulants by which interest is aroused from time to time in the cause of true education and a sound educational literature. In these criticisms, that we have succeeded in doing something more than arresting attention, not only the siren voice of friends, but the amended course of ministerial action, and the retraced steps of recalcitrant publishers, have frequently borne witness. That one of the latter has now and again jibbed, when we have given him an occasional prod through the review department of *THE MONTHLY*, was, considering the wonted docility he has publicly claimed credit for, perhaps not to be wondered at. Indeed, in his indulgence of the refractory mood, every allowance has to be made for him—to the extent, as Mark Twain would say, of his occasionally "cutting up" and "speaking back." In some respects, the poor fellow was to be pitied, for we had so effectively interfered with his little games, deprived him of his friends on the Central Committee, exposed the pretensions of his prentice book-makers, and generally been a thorn in his flesh, that it would not have been in human nature for him to conceal his baffled rage, or to abstain from "lifting veils," under which he hoped to find a sham oracle. The "veil-lifting" entertainment was of course little else than a pantomime, suited to the holiday season, and with that travesty of truth and the life which one naturally looks for on a paper stage, with the make-believe of injured innocence and the harlequin pos-

turings of "a Pirate Pub." simulating the "slave of duty." To treat other than flip-pantly the attack of W. J. Gage & Co. [in the January number of the *School Journal*] upon this magazine, its editor and promoters, would be to lay ourselves open to the charge that we were lacking in the sense of humour. The "Plain Facts Concerning Three Shams" of our contemporary is so ludicrously beside the mark, while it is so wofully wanting as a defence of the "Practical Speller," of which we had something to say in our last issue, that it is next to impossible to treat the affair seriously, or to imagine that the article would be mistaken by anyone but as the despairing effort of a house, conscious of the justice of our criticism, yet unable with relevancy to reply to it. As we write, however, it occurs to us that it is just possible that the statements respecting ourselves, in the article to which Messrs. Gage & Co. have appended their signature, are matters which that firm have deluded themselves into believing, and that their "Veiled Treason" to truth has not been detected. In this event, if our readers will allow us the space, it might be worth while to set the firm in question right.

But first let us analyse the article, that we may give Messrs. Gage an intelligent notion of the haphazard assertions in the contribution to which they have subscribed. These the truculent writer groups under three heads: (1) *The Canada Educational Monthly*; (2) Mr. G. Mercer Adam; and (3) The so-called Syndicate of Experienced Canadian Teachers,—in each of which, either from ignorance or malice, he has set down an unconscionable heap of falsehoods, and, from the publishers of the slanders, has "lifted the veil" of any shred of candour they had left to cover them. From first to last the article is a tissue of lies—the opening paragraph informing its readers that it has borne "in silence for