

THE CANADA SPELLING BOOK—BY ALEX. DAVIDSON.

To the author of this valuable addition to the school books of these Provinces we are indebted for a copy, which on examination, we feel confident in pronouncing one of the most complete of its description that we have seen, embracing within itself the rudiments of an intellectual, moral and religious education; for, properly judging that the feelings and habits impressed on the mind in youth are almost certain to guide in maturer age, the author has inserted a series of prayers, breathing sublime and yet simple thoughts, such as may be easily comprehended and understood by the child, whose character is in the process of formation.

The book is neatly printed, by Rowsell, of Toronto, and consists of two hundred and twenty-four pages. We are glad to learn that every probability exists of its being adopted as a class book in the best of our Canadian schools—in a short time, indeed, we doubt not it must come into universal use.

THE DRAMATIC MERCURY.

A SOMEWHAT novel journal is about to be commenced in New York, devoted principally to reviews of the Drama, and the Arts. Mr. A. D. Patterson, who is to be the Editor, is by general consent acknowledged to possess all that is requisite to render it a valuable periodical of its kind. We have no doubt that the thirst for novelty and the talents of its editor will ensure the *Dramatic Mercury*, an ample share of patronage.

FINE ARTS.

WE have much pleasure in recommending to those of our readers, who are lovers of the fine arts, a beautiful specimen of paintings, the production of a lady whose professional talents are well known to many in this city. The subject is "The Gipsy Mother," sitting under the "random bield of a sheltering wa'," as Burns hath it, her infant in her arms, and looking the very personification of rustic health, beauty, and enjoyment. From the well known badges of the wandering tribe, the worn red cloak, sunbrowned features, and nondescript head-attire—it is easy to recognize the Gipsy. Much skill has been displayed by keeping out of view the disagreeable accompaniments which too often mar the pleasure of the beholder of the living reality. There is no rude vulgarity to be seen, no affected simplicity, neither constraint nor awkwardness—nothing like squalor, or tawdry ornament,—but a beautiful calm expression of satisfaction and innocent archness, that at once proves the skill and delicacy of the artist. She looks you not in the face, nor is she sitting like one who has called up a look conscious of being observed and anxious of being admired. Her eyes seem slightly turned upward, or, as if fixed upon an object at some distance; she is not smiling, nor is she sad, but the sedate, thoughtful expression of her face is lighted up by a quick joy, as if she were thinking of the child in her arms and its loved and absent father. It would be difficult, however, to decide, what is the predominating characteristic of the countenance, which expresses health, innocence, beauty, simplicity tempered with archness, exposure to the envious elements, and at the same time the chastened tenderness of a mother for her beloved child. Although we are fond of children, we should not have been sorry had the red cloak been thrown over the very "little dear," which distracts attention from the mother—and rather interferes with the effect of the piece.

Truly the Art of Painting is a noble Art—producing the mightiest effects, with the simple and almost incorporeal elements of light and colors; on the rigid and harsh, laying a foundation for the soft and gentle; uniting opposites and even defects, so as to make a perfect whole; arresting the fleeting glory of a frail flower, or the evanescent blushes upon the cheek of beauty, and fixing them on canvass, to remain forever. Nay more, it is possible—and no one who has studied the face of the Gipsy Mother will deny it,—it is possible so to mould and shape matter that the invisible, ethereal *mind*, may shine forth, transparently and almost tangibly.

We are glad to be informed that Miss Deming will remain in this city for some time, devoting herself to the available part of her profession—miniature painting—and we are sure that an inspection of the "Gipsy Mother," as well as of her other productions (at Sharpley's Bookstore) will be a surer recommendation to those who may wish to avail themselves of her talent, than anything we can say.