

ings, one can only learn what an unenviable showing there is, after all these years of hiding up defects for the Protestant side of school education in Quebec. If things are as they are represented to be in these addresses, no time need now be lost in providing some kind of a remedy.

We regret to see that one or two of the speakers, notably the Rev. Dr. Rexford—backed up by editorials in the *Witness*—are inclined to think that reform now almost seems to be too late to prevent that collapse of the Protestant interest, of which Mr. Robert Sellar, of the *Huntingdon Gleaner*, once gave full warning, but for which, of course, he had also to stand being sneered at by those in authority as being worse than a visionary marplot.

And here, by way of explaining the situation, it may be said that the leader of the reactionaries appears to be the Rev. Dr. Rexford, of the Diocesan College, Montreal; at least he seems to be the most highly praised by the *Witness* for the picture of despair. We would say, however, that Dr. Rexford, in his *Knownit* address, can be detected as making an appeal to the galleries for the sake of a little applause—his words being better fitted for a teacher's institute than for a great deliberative body, such as the council of which, as we take it, he assumes the leadership, to administer an impossible system—thus rather inconsiderately venturing to throw the blame of maladministration on the system itself and not on the men who have been tinkering at it for so many years without beneficial effect, so far as the public interest is concerned.

One would think that such an unpatriotic venture would be taken as a confession of incompetency, which, by the way, the Hon. Mr. Fisher has not been able to overlook altogether. It cannot surely be taken to mean other than this by the Protestant communities of Quebec. The members of the Legislature, whom Dr. Rexford has from time to time openly defied and denounced in the press, cannot but take his picture of despair as meaning other than a throwing up of the sponge, with the way now opened for a right administration, directly responsible to the people. For if any point has been emphasized in one of the gatherings more than another, it has been the necessity for the appointing of a Minister of Education, as in Ontario, with the necessary officers under him to see to it that one element in Quebec does not prevent the other from establishing and supporting the schools that are best suited to its educational predispositions.

The battle does not yet seem to be won, however, by any means. Dr. Rexford is not the man to give up any pretension his prestige has given him as an educational administrator, if there is any possibility of his turning a sharp corner. He is one, we are told, who is ostensibly in favor of having a well-equipped training school for teachers though he has been known to frame a motion, and vote for it too, against modernizing the present Normal School to meet the demand for teachers. Perhaps he will do this act of turning a corner again and again, if only he may thus be allowed to continue to administer what he calls an impossible system by any sleight of hand.

We will watch with interest the outcome of the present agitation, with the reactionaries at the head of it, and will keep our readers, as far as space permits, in touch with it.

Prof. Clement D. Child, Ph. D., of Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y., has been appointed Professor of Physics in the School of Mines, Kingston, which carries with it the appointment of professor of physics in Queen's University. He is the successor of Prof. D. H. Marshall, who resigned a year ago. He is a graduate of Rochester University in 1890.

THE NEWSPAPER AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Says the *New York Independent*: "The newspaper press is not conducted today primarily for the purpose of conveying information, or of honestly shaping public opinion. It is conducted for the purpose of making money and of protecting vested interests. The news is not told in a simple, trustworthy way merely as news. It is worked up into 'stories' that the public finds 'interesting reading.' Editorial writers are not expected to write with an eye single to mere truth and the public welfare. They are expected to be well informed upon the financial and social connections of their proprietors, and not to make 'breaks.' It is not healthy for them to display zeal in moral crusades that might inconvenience the big advertisers. The magazines are as much interested in exaggerating certain aspects of wrong as the newspapers are in diverting attention from them. In short, mere information and strictly truthful comment upon it is not salable 'copy.'"

All of which is too true; and, sad to say, quite as true of Canadian newspapers, with a few honorable exceptions, as of their contemporaries in the United States.

BARS NOT REQUIRED.

The *Pioneer* declares that the problem of supplying hotel accommodation without the accompaniment of the bar-room has been solved so satisfactorily in so many places in Canada that the temperance hotel is no longer an experiment.

According to the *Pioneer* both the hotel-keepers and the public are discovering that better hotel accommodation can be furnished without than with the bar-room. Formerly, it says, the hotel-keeper depended so largely on the profits of his bar trade that he came to look on the bar-room as the essential part of the business. The result was that the bar-room monopolized too much attention, and the rest of the business was neglected.

Hence, in too many cases, hotels came to be regarded primarily as places for selling liquor, whereas the real and original purpose of the hotel was to supply food and lodging. Under the influence of the temperance measures, like local option, the *Pioneer* says hotel-keepers are returning to first principles, and are discovering that hotel-keeping can be made a profitable business even after the bar has been eliminated. The hotel-keeper no longer having the bar to depend upon or to occupy his attention is free to devote his whole time to the comfort and convenience of his guests, and is thus in a better position to give satisfaction and to attract custom than he possibly could be under the old conditions.

If the facts are as stated by The *Pioneer* the way of the temperance reformer will be much easier. The great problem of the temperance people heretofore has been to get rid of the bar without destroying the hotel at the same time. But the temperance hotel is a demonstrated success.

An English paper says—"Out of the three Methodist Conferences that are proposing to unite, two—the New Connection and the United Free Methodists—have now voted for union in a hearty and practically unanimous fashion. The solitary representative of the stern, unbending section of the Frees, who, perhaps, have some reason to doubt whether they can work well in Connexional harness, promised that now that union was decided upon he would do his best to make it a success. There is thus no reason to anticipate the formation of an English body of 'Wee Frees.' The third Conference, that of the Bible Christians, meets next week, and its adhesion to the scheme of union will probably be just as cordial as that of the other two." The largest Body, the Wesleysans, are not yet included in this combine; but everybody hopes and expects they also will unite further on.

LITERARY NOTES.

Blackwood's Magazine has always been noted for the high character of its fiction, and in the August number are three bright, short stories. One, "The Unexpected," by Jack London; another, "White Violets," by E. Garth Felix; and the third, "The Sweetheart Sweep," by Sir George Scott, K. C. I. E. Then there is a large instalment of Neil Munroe's "Her Daft Days," rapidly increasing in interest. Military readers will appreciate Col. Scott Moncrieff's paper on "Land and Military Training," in which it is argued that our great need in this country (Britain) is land for manoeuvring purposes—land whereon the "eye for country" can be developed." It is stated to be almost impossible to get land for such a purpose. The review of *The Times' History of the War in South Africa*, second article, makes fascinating reading; and at the present juncture the able paper on the report of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline will be read with interest. The poem in this number is entitled "The Highwayman," by Alfred Noyes. (The Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.)

The Baker & Taylor Company will begin their season with the publication of "Power Lot," by Sarah P. McLean Greene, the author of "Cape Cod Folks," "Vesty of the Basins," and "Deacon Lysander." Nova Scotia is where the scenes of the new tale are laid. A dissolute city boy is left penniless in the sombre life of Power Lot, a small fishing village, where the people have a quaint idea of life. The lad works hard for his living and the story of Robert's development will doubtless make interesting reading.

The 1906 edition of Dauchy and Co.'s Newspaper Catalogue has been issued as usual and contains all the distinctive features which have made the fifteen previous editions valuable. This book is a complete newspaper directory listing all the periodical publications of the United States and Canada. Editors, publishers, advertisers and all interested, will find in it a great deal of information most compactly arranged. The published price is \$5, and it can be obtained from the publishers, Messrs. Dauchy and Company, 9 Murray St., New York, or from booksellers.

"COME-OUT-ISM."

It is interesting to hear how a fresh mind like the Japanese feels on Christian points of view. At the Kewick Convention the Rev. Juji Nakada, of Japan, relating his religious experience, touched on a point every pastor knew something of in the course of his ministry. He said—"Once there came to me the thought of 'come-out-ism,' like those who say that all the Churches are backsliding, and you must come out of them. If you are thoroughly sanctified from all sin, do not keep yourselves apart from other Christians. Do not forget to be liars among thorns. If you are the only Spirit-filled Christian in your church, stay there, and tell what God has done for you. If you are surrounded by thorns, do not lose your temper, do not be harsh. Even to thorns give a sweet odour. Sooner or later they will turn to you for help. So I am against the spirit of 'come-out-ism.'"

The *Christian Chronicle*: The relation of the clergy of all denominations to the dissipations and extravagances of families rolling in wealth, is delicate and often critical; to withdraw from their society would leave it to drift farther and faster away from the safe channel of morality, moderation and true religion; to mingle with its dissipation reduces the minister to a kind of moral butler, a mere appendage to the passing show.