

for a vacant position a teacher with whom he had some acquaintance. An appeal to the Minister against the course adopted provoked the following reply, which has been handed to us for publication, and which deserves a wide publicity :—

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO.

SIR,—I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of Education, to state, in reply to your letter of the 1st instant, that he has personally considered the question raised in your letter of the 1st instant, and is prepared to recommend to the Principals and Masters of the Normal Schools, and High School Inspectors, the propriety of abstaining from assuming to go so far as to recommend any one for any position as Teacher in the High or Public Schools.

It is not part of their official duty to give any recommendation whatever. The results of the training of the candidates are best expressed by the certificates which each one obtains after being subjected to the required tests.

The Minister has directed this to be made generally known, so that any such practice may be discontinued.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ALEX. MARLING,
Secretary.

In recording our satisfaction with this statement of the Minister's opinion, we must express the hope that it will not be ignored as some others of the Regulations have been. As a case in point we may instance what we believe to be a fact that, although the Normal School Masters are directed to accompany their students to the schools they visit, the Regulation is quietly ignored in Toronto at any rate.

In the foregoing letter the Minister himself gives some excellent reasons why what had actually become a custom in official circles should not be permitted. We may add that the permission to recommend to situations would confer a dangerous power on those whose position gives weight to their words. "It is human to err," and amongst the Departmental officers there seems to be a remarkable amount of "humanity." The unscrupulous Inspector might, of course, use this as one of the most effective means of building up his influence in the country, and

of keeping at his back a body of men whose better judgment would be warped by their feelings of gratitude. It is hardly likely either that the Inspector would like to report adversely on the work done by one who owed his appointment to his influence. The effect of such permission on the morale of teachers is also bad. It interferes with their freedom of action, and dwarfs that feeling of manly self-reliance that should characterize the teacher above all men. It is no secret that "hundreds of deserving men" have met their reward owing to a liberal exercise of this recommending faculty, but we hope that now that the Minister is asserting himself, this Regulation will be strictly enforced.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION AT THE INTERMEDIATE.—We would suggest to the Minister a change in the mode of conducting this part of the Intermediate Examination. It would be well for the Examiner to indicate the length of composition expected from the candidate, and to vary the mode of examination : theme-writing should not be the only test of a student's capabilities at this stage of his progress. It is also worth while to remark that there are others besides teachers examined, and that the subjects should be such as are familiar to all. At the last Intermediate, of four theses proposed, only one was general in its character. This is unfair to the ordinary High School pupil for whom this is often the most difficult of the tests.

THE Senate of Toronto University has just made its appointments of the Examiners in Arts for the present year. They comprise the following :—Classics : D. H. Fletcher, M.A. ; F. W. Kerr, B.A. ; and Rev. F. H. Wallace, M.A. Mathematics :—Chas. Carmichael, M.A. ; A. K. Blackadder, B.A. ; and F. E. Hayter, B.A. Mental and Moral Science :—Prof. G. P. Young, M.A., and Rev. Prof. John Campbell, M.A. English and History :—F. E. Seymour, M.A., and J. H. Long, B.A. Modern Languages :—Rev. Jas. Roy, M.A., and Rev. Reinhold Von Pirch. Oriental Languages :—Rev. John M. King, M.A. Mineralogy and Geology :—Geo. M. Dawson, F.G.S.