

INTRODUCTION

TO THE SECOND CANADIAN EDITION.

We have reason to congratulate ourselves, that in most departments of study, Canadian Schools are now supplied with excellent text books, many of them prepared in the country by Canadian Teachers. In the department of English Grammar, however, it is scarcely necessary to say, that among all classes of teachers the utmost dissatisfaction is felt. It is the peculiarity of almost every English Grammar in use that, while they may be very good, or even excellent, in some department of the subject, they either entirely omit others of, at least, equal importance, or are so inaccurate, or meagre, or behind the times, in the manner of treating them, that, in many cases, it would be better had they been altogether passed over. The consequence is, that a teacher who would make his course of instruction comprehend what is necessary to render it practically useful and give it a degree of completeness, is compelled, either to depend on oral instruction to supplement the deficiencies of the text book, or to submit to the inconvenience and needless expense of introducing several different books. To this, more than any other cause, is, doubtless, to be attributed the fact, that the study of English Grammar does not occupy that position in our schools to which its importance entitles it. Whatever opinion, therefore, may be entertained of the pretensions of the text book now presented, of this, at all events, the editor is fully assured, that both teachers and pupils will appreciate the attempt to render their labour in this department somewhat more pleasant and remunerative, and will cheerfully recognise whatever merit it may possess.

In undertaking the revision of Bullions' Analytical and Practical Grammar, the intention, in the first place, was merely to correct some of the numerous inaccuracies, and supply a few of its worst defects; but the more closely it was examined with a view to this, in the light of the latest improvements in the mode of treating and presenting the subject, the more obvious it became, that *such superficial* changes, so far from satisfying the