

EDITORIAL NOTES.

1896.

Happy New Year to all our readers.

We specially commend to all educators and well-wishers of men, women and children our poetry this month. We found it in December Number of *St. Nicholas*.

To reach all those who would be benefited by and would care for the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY on acquaintance with it, we need the aid of those who already know it. We hope that their liking for our MAGAZINE, will induce each of them to send us the names of one or two new subscribers. This will be a favour to their friends, and will much oblige the Manager of the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

In the August-September number of this MAGAZINE appeared an article on Bible knowledge as found in our schools, which has attracted much attention throughout the country in the press and otherwise.

In this connection, we may be allowed to mention the *Montreal Witness* as one of the newspapers which has devoted attention to the notices and the subject therein dealt with. Our aim in the article was specially to make clear this point, that the acquaintance of the children attending our schools with the Bible, is not equal to that which they have with the contents of the books more or less used and read in our public schools, thus showing that the contention of those who hold that the Church and the home are attending sufficiently to this duty, is not justified by results. That is, applying the ordinary school tests in the usual manner, the pupils of one school at least, and the school we may take to be a fair representative

of a class of our public schools, show less knowledge of our Scriptures than they do of ordinary school literature.*

We made no reflection on Sabbath School teachers, who are worthy in our opinion of all praise for their devotion to the best interests of society. We sought for simple elemental working knowledge of our Scriptures in one of the best Secondary Schools in Ontario, and found it not.

Many of our contemporaries consider that this part has been proved. We beg to thank them for their remarks on this important subject.

The fact is thus made plain, that pupils attending our Secondary Schools do not know their Bible, as a book of history, or literature, or its directions on moral questions as well, not nearly as well as they do ordinary school books.

The ignorance of the Bible which a College Professor found amongst undergraduates of a College in the United States of America, is also found amongst pupils of Secondary Schools in Ontario.

We need not repeat here an expression of the high estimate which all the best, the noblest writers of English have put upon the literature to be found in our English Bible. Their verdict is, that English literature cannot be understood without an intimate knowledge of the Bible. So far well. But this is only a part of the claim which this MAGAZINE makes, and for years has made, on behalf of the Bible in our schools. The Bible is the great teacher of morals, our final standard of appeal in questions of con-

*The total attendance of the school is over three hundred.