

branches of the Civil Service require the use of the new style by the candidates, and that many English schools have adopted it to the exclusion of the old slanting style. On the continent, too, Austria and Germany are taking up the innovation, many of their schools having adopted it with great success and satisfaction.

It is easy to be wise after the event. Now that our attention has been directed to the matter, cannot we distinctly recall the fact that the most legible of the letters and other manuscripts we receive are written in unpretentious vertical characters. Do not we remember, too, that in many cases at least, those within our observation whose business requires much and rapid penmanship, as in the case of writers for the press, have fallen undesignedly into the use of an upright system. Certain we are that the most legible MSS. we receive for the printer are written in the vertical style, though probably in the great majority of cases the writer has never given the matter a thought, or, if he has, has—not without some qualms of conscience—back-slidden into the habit almost in spite of himself and in violation of all the teachings of his boyhood.

We commend this question to the careful and experimental consideration of our readers. Perhaps we should add, in these days of suspicious newspaper puffs, that, though our attention has been called to the matter by the advertisement which appears in our columns, the advertisers have asked no commendation or comment from us, and this article is written without their knowledge, as a spontaneous expression of the views we have reached, without any profound investigation or expert knowledge of the subject.

### PRAYER FOR SCHOOLS.

*To the Editor of the "Witness":*

SIR,—A considerable number of years ago it was the custom to observe annually in Montreal a day of prayer for schools and colleges on the same day that was chosen for the purpose in the United States. In those days it was not unusual—indeed, one may say that it was quite the expected thing, for the prayers of that day to be answered in American colleges by speedy revivals in which the zeal of Christians was quickened and the unconverted were led to give themselves to God. In Montreal, if I remember right, the day was observed at first with enthusiasm, but afterwards with so much formality that the custom of holding services upon it died a natural death. I do not remember that any special effort was made at that time to hold meetings among students, but I remember attending meetings held by ministers in the old American Church at the corner of Victoria square and St. James street, or in old Zion, for the purpose of praying for students. Montreal now educates ministers for the province, for the Dominion, and for the world. Not less important for the coming of the kingdom, it is training doctors, scientists, engineers, literary and business men and women who, if they are to