

THE ONTARIO TEACHER:

A MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.

Vol. 2.

MAY, 1874.

No. 5.

ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Under the new School Act the teachers of Ontario have the responsibility imposed upon them of choosing a representative to the Council of Public Instruction. This concession to their wishes, though made with rather an ungenerous and unnecessary restriction, is one which will mark a new era in the history of our educational institutions. The tendency of the present age is towards self-government. The old ideas of centralization are being exploded, and legislators are now beginning to take the people into their confidence, and to bestow upon them privileges which were once considered to be the inherent right of only the favored few.

But while teachers are thus to be privileged under the new order of things, it must not be forgotten that every additional privilege brings with it additional responsibility. The new Council of Public Instruction should, when changed at all, be better than the old, otherwise, the expense and trouble of the change will be all thrown

away. To make it better the various elective bodies, viz:—Teachers, Inspectors and High School Masters, must discriminate wisely between the various candidates who may solicit their suffrages. There should be no hasty conclusion come to. Men of the highest talent and attainments should be sought after, and none but those well qualified both in character and well known practical ability, should receive their confidence.

To particularize. A candidate for a seat at the highest educational tribunal of the country should possess moral worth. On this topic there must be no comment. We are, we trust, arriving at that period in the history of our country, when every candidate for office, whether political or otherwise, must possess this "badge of honor."

2nd. Practical knowledge. We do not want mere theorizers at the Council Board. This is a practical age.—Everything we know must, if possible, be turned to some practical account. In the great work of