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TORONTO, NOVEMBER 25, 1886.

MANY of the Teachers' Associations have taken up the consideration of the proposal to form a College of Preceptors for Ontario at their recent meetings. It will be interesting briefly to show how the scheme has been looked upon.

The committee of the South Essex Teachers' Association, to which was referred the circular from the Ontario Teachers' Association, reported in favour of adopting the general principle of the address of Mr. Dickson, concerning the College of Preceptors, and of laying the circular concerning the Teachers' Union on the table. The committee of the East Bruce Teachers' Association reported as follows: "This Association is in sympathy with the general principle of the establishment of a College of Preceptors, as set forth in the circular issued by the promoters of the scheme, but considering the radical nature of the change contemplated, and lack of opportunity for study-

ing the details of the scheme, we prefer to delay assenting to the latter until after further consideration." Both these reports were adopted. At the East Kent Teachers' Association meeting it was moved, seconded, and carried, "That until it is made clearer to this Association how the proposed Preceptor's College is to accomplish the results set forth as likely to follow its institution, that this Association does not see its way clear to recommend it." At the Durham Teachers' Association meeting, after some discussion on the general principles, it was referred to a committee which reported that the majority were in favour of the general principles of the scheme, but objected to a few of its clauses, and proposed amendments. It was moved, seconded, and carried, "That in the opinion of this convention the scheme of a College of Preceptors, as set before us, would not be productive of such benefits to the teachers as would justify us in approving of it." The West Kent teachers came to the conclusion that it was a scheme to control the examinations and embarrass the government, and might possibly do more harm than good. At the North Essex Teachers' Association meeting, it was moved, seconded, and resolved, that "while we sympathize with the aims of the proposed College of Preceptors, as set forth in clause first of the prospectus, we cannot but feel that the methods by which these aims are to be realized are impracticable, and totally opposed to the fundamental principles of our institutions."

The calm, unprejudiced, and sober way in which this radical project has been generally regarded says a great deal for the sagacity displayed at teachers' conventions. It is, we think, a fact for which there is much cause for congratulation, that in assemblies of teachers, at which naturally there is much mutual sympathy, and when there is very likely to be excited no small amount of enthusiasm, which without much difficulty could, perhaps, be fanned into a sentiment not so pure or disinterested, there should be evinced so large a

degree of circumspection and self-restraint, that when a project, containing in it much of value, is laid before them, they should be able to discuss it with a degree of temperance and calm judgment such as many assemblies of a like character might envy.

On the whole the teachers of Ontario seem to view the proposal in much the same light as that in which we regarded the proposal in our issue of August 26th. It contains many good qualities but requires some alterations.

One hint only do we here put forward for the further consideration of our readers.—One of its aims, we were told, was to *advance the interests of education*. (a) By admitting to the teaching profession only those who are fitted for the work; (b) By protecting the public from incompetent teachers. And its powers we are also told, should comprise the right (1) To manage its own affairs, (2) To enact laws for the admission and government of its members; (3) To settle all matters of dispute arising among teachers.

Now the question to be decided is. How can this be done, or rather can this be done so long as teachers are in the pay of the State, are servants of the government? The nation now looks to the government as the responsible head of educational matters in this Province. Teachers cannot take upon themselves this responsibility without devising some means by which it shall be transferred from the government to themselves. This point Mr. Dickson's scheme altogether omits. "It will be necessary," he says, "that the details of the whole scheme should receive his [the executive head of the Education Department's] concurrence, and that the aims and objects of the society should meet with his full and cordial approval. It would be advantageous, moreover, were he to become an *ex officio* member of the college with special powers." But with such indefinite language the scheme naturally could not meet with unqualified approval. It was discussed at the Teachers' Association meetings