



THE EDUCATIONALIST.

JUNE 15, 1861.

NOTICE TO TEACHERS.

The Convention of the Teachers' Association, for the East Riding of the County of Northumberland, will be held in the Village of Brighton, on the 6th of July next.

We are requested to say that there has been a misunderstanding as to the time of the meeting of the above Association, announced in the circulars issued by the Corresponding Secretary.

The Chairman of the Association (Mr. E. Scarlett) will examine the schools in the Township of Haldimand, on the 29th instant.

DR. RYERSON'S NEW BOOK.

The Chief Superintendent of Schools is preparing "A History of the United Empire Loyalists." This work is a desideratum in the historical literature of the Province, and will be eagerly sought after as soon as it is issued. We know of no one better fitted for the compilation and embellishment of matter of this kind than the Reverend Superintendent. He has had opportunities of acquiring extensive and varied information on the subject, and will no doubt present it in an acceptable form. He solicits the contribution of any facts of which descendants of the U. E. Loyalists may be cognizant, that they may be incorporated in the work, and we doubt not all parties concerned will feel it a duty to the cause of literature to aid the Dr. in this way to the extent of their ability.

A VALUABLE BOOK.

We have seldom derived greater pleasure from the reception and perusal of a book than that afforded by an examination of a new work issued from the press of John Lovell, Montreal, and entitled "Lovell's General Geography." It is from the pen of J. George Hodgins, L. I. B., the talented author of several valuable contributions to our Canadian school literature. The want of just such a book has long been felt in Canada, and the supply leaves nothing to be desired. It is not only a home production, but one whose utility and perfect adaptation to

our wants constitute its principal value. It is surprisingly complete in those tables and minute descriptions which render a work on Geography valuable for reference, while at the same time, it is sufficiently condensed as completely to answer its proposed end as a school book. The portion devoted to British North America is sufficiently extensive for general purposes, and lacks the obnoxious political allusions which deform American works of this kind. These 100 pages contain a great quantity and variety of information some of which cannot be found in so accessible a form elsewhere; and not only as an exhibition of Canadian literary progress, but as a beautiful and appropriate sample of Canadian art, we must congratulate the publisher on this very opportune and praiseworthy donation to the teachers of youth in Canada. The binding of the copy we have received is perhaps too light to be durable, but the printing and engraving are almost faultless. The definitions are clear and well adapted to the purposes of instruction; while the arrangement is so natural as to aid the memory and incite the learner by the easy and pleasing style of the descriptions. Nearly every man of any literary eminence in Canada has expressed a very high appreciation of "Lovell's General Geography," and we hope to see it immediately adopted as a text book in every school throughout the land.

For the Educationalist.

THE DUTY OF PARENTS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

BY J. MACKAY.

The subject of the duty of parents to provide an education for their children is rather a delicate one, and I know not well how to approach it in order to do it justice. Notwithstanding the advancement of the present age in civilization, and all that is intellectually ennobling, elevating, and refining, is it not lamentable to see so many who are careless and indifferent on this all important subject? How many are there holding good social, and often very influential positions in society, whose minds, instead of giving a share of their attention to the cultivation of the moral and intellectual faculties of their offspring, are wholly engrossed by sordid selfishness; who permit avarice to reign predominant, and whose actions all radiate towards one centre,—the amassing of wealth? How many, instead of inform-

ing and instructing their minds during our long winter evenings, not only for their own interest, but also to enable them to impart something to their children, to say nothing of the real pleasure and enjoyment obtained by such a course when once pursued, would rather gossip about their neighbors, listen to the story of some bar-room leugner, or squander the precious time which an ever bounteous Benefactor has given them in something equally foolish and vain?

It is beyond my comprehension to understand how parents, who live in this enlightened age, who have the preaching of the Gospel within their reach, eye, even at their very doors, and who have committed to them the nurturing of precious and immortal minds, can be blind to the blasting and withering influence of such examples on the future development of their children's character. If they did not consider their neglect of duty, one would think they would at least consider the interest of their children in respect to such examples. But such people are generally willfully blind. Some may, even through lack of knowledge, but a greater part is generally aware of such influence to a certain extent; perhaps they deserve our pity more than blame, because in their youth they were influenced by such examples themselves, and retain that influence to the present day.

The duty of parents to provide their children an education in accordance with their station in life, and the situations which they intend they should occupy in society, is a duty enlarged on by moralists, and enjoined by the Bible.

If on no other ground, the divine teachings would be sufficient; much more than should that duty be fulfilled when we consider the countless blessings flowing from individual and national education, which blessings are enjoyed by that individual or nation, and exert a powerful influence on the whole world.

It is to education that we owe the arts and sciences, which place us above the barbarous and heathen nations; and it was with the first dawning of education that our progress in civil and religious liberty came. Yes, education was the bright morning star that foreshadowed the dawning of civil and religious liberty, which, next to the Bible, is the most glorious boon which we poor mortals possess. But the Bible teaches us the duty and value of education, to which we owe civil and religious liberty, and our progress as a nation in the arts and sciences. The