

as suggestions to those who have to do with such matters, they will find their opinions more likely to be well considered and acted upon, and the interests of the school system much more advanced, then if they assume the offices of judges and assailants of others in the same work. There are writers enough to discuss all parts of a school system, as well as of other systems, besides the administrators of it joining in to pick it to pieces in order to try and put it better together again; and there is ample range of topics of school ethics and practice and literature and intelligence for pages of any educational periodical, without trespassing upon the debatable ground of school politics.

During the recent conference of Inspectors in Toronto, nothing was intimated of the new antagonistic agent\* about to be employed against the Council of Public Instruction, on the unfair and unjust assumption that it has "little or no professional sympathy" with "those over whom" its members "exercise jurisdiction,"—against the Department and no doubt its "error of administration," and against the *Journal of Education*, as not being "thoroughly practical" in its character. It is true that in regard to the latter the *Teacher* states that:—

"It is not our desire to criticise just now the *Journal of Education* published in Toronto, under the auspices of the Department of Public Instruction, but we feel, even if its publication is continued, that another Journal more practical in its nature, with its columns more freely open to the profession," etc.

It is just possible that the doubt or the expectation of the non-continuance of this *Journal*, as intimated above, may have had some influence in the establishment of the *Teacher*. Be that as it may, however (although the *Teacher* may prove a valuable auxiliary to the cause), yet we deny the existence of the two grounds upon which the promoters of the new publication advocate its establishment—that the *Teacher* is "more practical" in its character, or that its columns are "more freely" open to the profession, than those of the *Journal of Education*. In regard to the former the articles published in the *Journal* speak for themselves. In regard to the latter we have always welcomed any contributions of a "practical" character from any member of the profession, and have a standing notice to the following effect, inserted from time to time in the *Journal*:

"INTER-COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 'JOURNAL.'

"As already intimated, a department is always reserved in the *Journal of Education* for letters and inter-communications between Inspectors, School Trustees and Teachers, on any subject of general interest relating to education in the Province. As no personal or party discussions have, ever since the establishment of the *Journal*, appeared in its columns, no letter or communication partaking of either character can be admitted to its pages; but, within this salutary restriction, the utmost freedom is allowed. Long letters are not desirable; but terse and pointed communications of moderate length on school management, discipline, progress, teaching, or other subjects of general interest are always acceptable, and may be made highly useful in promoting the great objects for which this *Journal* was established."

NO POLITICS IN SCHOOL AFFAIRS.

The Hon. J. P. Wickersham, State Superintendent of Public Schools, Pennsylvania, in his last report utters the following truthful sentiments:—

"The re-construction of the Department as proposed would be incomplete, unless provision be made to remove all connected with it away as far as possible from political influences. Theoretically, it will be acknowledged by thinking men of all parties, that there ought to be no politics in school affairs. Citizens of all parties pay the taxes, the children of all parties are found in the schools, and it is, therefore, clear that damage must be done to the system by placing those in the control of it who are unable in the administration of their offices to rise above partisan influences or prejudices."

IX. Departmental Notices.

EXAMINATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS.

In accordance with the General Regulations adopted by the Council of Public Instruction, an Examination of Candidates for Public School Teachers' Second and Third Class Certificates, will be held (D.V.) in each County Town of Ontario, commencing on TUESDAY, 15th JULY, at 9 a.m.

\* The "Teacher" for April gives currency to several misstatements in regard to the Department, which recently appeared in a local paper, and the editor professes to wish for a more "complete vindication" than that already given to the public in a letter from the Chief Superintendent.

But Candidates who intend to take the optional subjects in the Curriculum for Second Class, e. i. Natural History, Botany and Agricultural Chemistry, must present themselves at Two o'clock, on MONDAY, 14th JULY.

The Examinations of Candidates for FIRST-CLASS CERTIFICATES will be held at the same place, commencing on MONDAY, 21st JULY; at 2 p.m.

As intimated in the *Journal of Education*, a Gold Medal (granted by Wm. McCabe, Esq., LL.B.) will be awarded to the most successful Candidate for a First Class Certificate of the highest grade (A).

Forms of the notice to be previously given by the Candidates, can be obtained on application to any Inspector.

It is indispensable that Candidates should notify the presiding County or City Inspector (as the case may be) not later than the 24th of June, of their intention to present themselves for examination.

The presiding Inspector will inform the Department not later than the 1st July, of the number of Candidates in each class, as the Examination Papers cannot be printed until this information shall have been received from every one of the presiding Inspectors. An omission of any one of these Inspectors in this matter, beyond the time specified may delay the printing and despatch to the Inspectors, of the Examination Papers.

The Examination Papers will be sent to the presiding Public School Inspector (who will be responsible for the conduct of the examinations according to the regulations). The presiding Inspector will, immediately after the meeting of the Board of Examiners, at the close of the examinations, and not later than the 3rd of August, transmit to the Department the report of the Board of Examiners, and also the whole of the answers of the candidates. The surplus Examination Papers are also to be returned for binding.

The presiding Inspector will please give sufficient public notice respecting the Examinations, and obtain from his co-Inspector (if any) the names of Candidates who may happen to send their applications to him.

FIRST BOOK OF EUCLID FOR FEMALE TEACHERS.

Notice is hereby given that the Council of Public Instruction, at a meeting held on the 10th instant, directed that the First Book of Euclid be a subject of examination for female candidates for second and first class certificates, the subject of Domestic Economy being omitted.

This regulation will take effect at the July Examinations, 1873.

Candidates for third class certificates will be required in arithmetic, to solve ordinary questions in simple interest.

ASSISTANT TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES.

The question is sometimes asked if it be necessary that an assistant teacher should hold a legal certificate. We reply: It is absolutely necessary that he should hold one. The law expressly declares that every person receiving any part of the School Fund as teacher shall hold a legal certificate of qualification. The Superior Courts have also decided that trustees cannot legally levy a rate for the payment of a teacher who does not possess the necessary qualifications as such under the School laws. (See page 52 of this Number.)

USE OF AUTHORIZED TEXT BOOKS PRESCRIBED.

The list of the authorized Text Books for High and Public Schools, so far as completed by the Council of Public Instruction, is published on a separate sheet. Inspectors, Trustees and Teachers will please see that these books are used in the schools.