

of the Indies with you to bring the wealth of the Indies home." Mr. Ross took the wealth of the Indies with him. Has he brought the wealth of the Indies home? This we have yet to learn. A greater than Dr. Johnson has said, "The wise man's eyes are in his head," and surely Mr. Ross has not allowed conceit in our own educational system to blind him to points of superiority in what he saw of education in Britain. In some shape we shall still hope to get the benefit of his travelled experience. Though *he* has been silent, we have a report from his Superintendent of Mechanics' Institutes, who, under the name of "Commissioner," was entrusted with the duty of arranging our Educational Exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition held in London last year. We know of no better hands to which that duty could have been entrusted, and though we are far from thinking that the profession would have chosen him to represent the Education of Ontario, we have no doubt that he merited the judicious praise of the *Morning Post's* critic, who says that he "arranged the display in a manner which reflects greatly upon his judgment and organizing power." We only hope that he made the exhibit a fairly representative one, so that we may not have a repetition of what occurred after the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, when intelligent United States' visitors to our schools asked, but asked in vain, to see the apparatus with which that display led them to believe our schools were furnished. That our part of the Exhibition created a most favourable impression the extracts which the Report gives from the English press show, and this adds point to the anecdote we have heard with regard to one of our representatives there. On the occasion of a public meeting connected with the Exhibition, when he had spoken as the representative

of Ontario, an intelligent Englishman remarked to a Canadian, "You Canadians are a strange people, you send a man to represent you in educational matters who drops his h's in 'ide Park, and picks them up in Hislington."

The total school population between the legal ages of 5 and 21 years for 1885 was 583,137. For the previous year it was 471,287, but then the maximum age was only 16 years, so that we have 111,850 to represent those between 17 and 21 years old. In previous years not more than ten per cent. of that number attended school, and these lived mainly in the country, and attended during the winter months. Of course, owing to this small attendance of those over 16, there will appear a greater discrepancy between the school population and those enrolled as scholars. This number in 1885 was 472,458, or about 81 per cent. of the school population, and it was 5,541 in excess of that for the previous year. As usual, the boys predominate—in this year to the extent of 6 per cent. While the registered attendance was 472,458, the average attendance was only 225,907, or 48 per cent. of the registered attendance. This was the same average as that of the previous year. Mr. Ross, commenting upon this small average, calls attention to the fact that 9 per cent. of the pupils registered attended less than 20 days in the year; and 241,189, or about 51 per cent. attended less than 100 days, which is about half the year. He asks, "Is it not possible for trustees and inspectors to do something whereby a more regular attendance at school may be obtained?" We ask further, is it not possible for the Minister of Education himself to do something to secure this desirable end? We have a compulsory law, why should he not see that it is enforced? Surely to enforce the law