

Of course the Dominion would not need more than three or four such papers, but every one of them would have a circulation three times as large as any now published, and they could be issued at rates that would put

them within reach of the average workingman. What an educator and elevator of the public mind even one such Daily would be, with one hundred thousand readers! Is there any prospect of such a boon?

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE MONTHLY :

SIR,—Your request for a free exchange of opinion on the merits of the proposed scheme for a College of Preceptors induces me to send you a few thoughts. It is, however, with some hesitation I do so, mainly because I am not certain that any amount of discussion will make the scheme practicable. The objects aimed at by its authors are worthy of our hearty support and sympathy. No one who thinks of the actual state of affairs as regards teachers in this Province, can fail to notice the existence of forces and influences which do not tend to manliness and independence of character, or to the development of the highest forms of intellectual and moral excellence. To a large extent we are bondsmen, and naturally enough, we are developing the characteristic vices of slaves and dependants. A truckling servility to the educational powers of the day—a dishonest and ignoble rivalry for place and profit—an almost inexcusable absence of professional honour and etiquette are evils so manifest and so prevalent that further remarks on this point are wholly unnecessary. The question then before the minds of many is, How can this state of things be remedied? Is there any way by which *teaching* can be made a *profession*? Can we, the teachers of Ontario, raise our status until what is now looked upon as a comparatively low occupation be considered, next to

the *ministry*, the highest and noblest of professions! Such, I doubt not, is what is before the mental vision of the supporters and advocates of a College of Preceptors. It is one thing to recognize the existence of an evil; and it is another to devise and carry into effect a genuine remedy. It would be traversing old ground to point out where this College of Preceptors' scheme fails. It is inconsistent with our system of State-supported education. It may be perfectly true that a College of Preceptors would not fail to protect the interests of the public; that it would jealously guard the entrance to the teaching profession; and that it would elevate the character and increase the efficiency of the teachers of the community. This is not, however, the question at issue. The difficulty arises from the unwillingness of the public to hand over the examining of teachers to an irresponsible body. There must be a responsible individual or body of individuals somewhere, to whom the people will look for a wise and careful expenditure of the public money. Compulsory education, and compulsory expenditure for education, is the law of the land: and so long as we have such a law, so long will the average ratepayer demand that he receive his money's worth. Had we a system of voluntary education, a College of Preceptors would be not only desirable but possible. We would then be on the same footing as lawyers, doctors and clergymen. Now, I do not see