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"QUIZ" REPLIES TO LETTER OF AN OLD TEACHER

Correspondent Gets After a Critic of the Chief Superintendent of Education—Letter of "An Old Teacher" Had Many Loopholes in It—An Eighth Grade Pupil Could Have Given Him Pointers.

To the Editor of the Mail.

Sir: In the "Gleaner" of the 17th instant I noticed a letter signed by "An Old Teacher" in which the writer criticises communications of the Chief Superintendent of Education to the distributors of Myers' History. He writes he says in the interests of education. That is well. It is well too that the ignorance or carelessness of the learned should be criticised; but it is not well that the critic himself should be spared. I too write in the interests of education. The Chief Superintendent's grammar and composition is the subject of attack. On these subjects the Chief's critic should look well to his own laurels. The opening sentence of the writer's letter runs thus: "I was not a little amused when reading the extracts quoted in your issue of Saturday last from the letter of the Chief Superintendent of Education to the distributors of Myers' History." Can the writer explain what strength or propriety he added when he placed "the" before "extracts" in his first sentence? As "brevity is the soul of wit" why not say "when reading extracts"? Why is "quoted" employed in the above sentence? If what amused the writer were "extracts" read in a newspaper as he tells us, they have been quoted otherwise they could not have been "extracts". Why declare a fact which is evident without a declaration? To extract from the Chief's letter, and to quote from it, is the same thing. "Quoted" in the writer's first sentence is redundant, and the writer is guilty of tautology. That "eighth grade pupil" to whom the writer refers might recast "An Old Teacher's" period as follows without much danger of a flogging. "I was not a little amused while reading extracts published in your issue of Saturday last, from a letter written by the Chief Superintendent of Education to the distributors of Myers' History."

Criticising the Chief's use of "Supplementary" the critic says: "When I taught school Supplementary was an adjective. It has now, by an ex cathedra pronouncement, become a noun." In addition to that criticism to which the writer has exposed himself in consequence of his ostentatious display of superior knowledge; it is worthy of remark that probably not one reader in one hundred would, without investigation understand his obsolete Latin term "ex Cathedra". Why this foreign phrase was culled from the end of the dictionary, and paraded in the columns of a daily newspaper is not very clear, unless the writer wished to clothe his language in dim magnificence or senatorial dignity. Had the writer translated his "ex Cathedra" "with authority" or "from the chair" or "from a place of authority" we poor mortals might have been edified.

Concerning the use of foreign words Macaulay, one of the greatest masters

of thought and expression has this to say. "The first law of writing, that law to which all other laws are subordinate is this, that the words employed shall be such as to convey to the reader the meaning of the writer." If Macaulay is correct, then "An Old Teacher" has violated the first law of composition. If the Chief's use of "supplementary" was incorrect, it was not because he pronounced it, with authority a noun, but rather because he made no "pronouncement" of a noun at all.

Another "pronouncement" of "An Old Teacher", is such that "some eighth grade pupil" might remodel it without marring its beauty. Referring to the Chief's letter the writer says, "Even the newspapers should take the Chief Superintendent's letter up." "Some eighth grade pupil" would have said, "even the newspapers should 'take up' the Chief Superintendent's letter" because he may have been told that adverbs ought to be placed as closely as possible to the verbs which they modify. "Since", says the writer, the Board from its composition and environment cannot. If by this elliptical phrase—the Board—the writer means the Board of Education then he has erred in employing "composition", for by the composition of the Board he must mean the persons of whom it is composed. These persons may probably be as capable of looking up and criticising the Chief's letter as any other persons, though perhaps from their position on the Board they might feel themselves debarred from doing so. Therefore the eighth grade pupil would have put it thus, "from its position and environment."

Why has the writer subjoined the following couplet?

"O! for the touch of vanished hands
And the sound of voices still"

What connection has this sombre sentimentalism with the Chief's grammar and composition? What has it to do with the premises? And why has the writer disfigured Tennyson? The grave has long since closed over him. Why misrepresent him? He wrote thus:

"But O, for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."

Apparently the writer would improve on this poet. As he appears to be fond of poetry he may enjoy the following quotation. I shall not attempt to improve on Burns. I lack the native genius, without which industry labours in vain to produce immortal old Teacher" thinks he has displayed.

"Oh, wad some power the giftie gie us
To see ourselves as others see us!

It wad frae worrie a blunder free us
And foolish notion!"

Respectfully yours,
QUIZ.

Doaktown, N. B., Feb. 24, '20.

Y.M.C.A.

A public meeting is called for the purpose of electing a new Y. M. C. A. Directorate on **THURSDAY EVENING**, the 26th instant, at 8 p.m. at Y. M. C. A. rooms, York street.
W. E. McMULLEN,
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Again after More Salary

The Fredericton School Board is meeting this afternoon. One of the matters to be considered is a joint demand by the teachers of the city schools for more salary.

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NOTICE OF LEGISLATION

Notice is hereby given that a bill will be presented at the next Session of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick on behalf of the Town of Devon, for the purpose of enabling the said Town to obtain an additional supply of water for use in the said Town, and for that purpose that authority be given to acquire by purchase, lease or expropriation any source of water supply within the limits of said Town and within four miles thereof, together with the lands upon which the water is situate and bordering same; also, such lands or easements as may be necessary for conveying said water to the said Town; also the power to issue debentures and borrow money to meet the expense of same.

Dated this 6th day of February, 1920.
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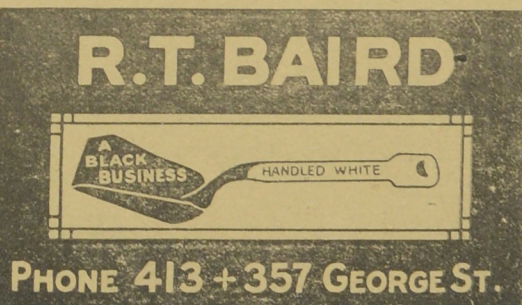
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