

streamers, corona, and waves. The distinct formation of the corona is the most important characteristic of this class; yet, were the corona distinctly formed, without auroral arches or waves, or crimson vapor, it could not be considered as an aurora of the first class.

CLASS II. The combination of two or more of the leading characteristics of the first class, but wanting in others, would serve to mark the second. Thus the exhibition of arches and streamers, both of superior brilliancy, with a corona, while the waves and crimson columns were wanting, or of streamers with a corona, or of arches with a corona without streamers or columns (if such a case ever occurs), we should designate as an aurora of the second class.

CLASS III. The presence of only one of the more rare characteristics, either streamers or an arch, or irregular corruscations, but without the formation of a corona, and with but a moderate degree of intensity, would denote an aurora of the third class.

CLASS IV. In this class we place the most ordinary form of the aurora, as a mere northern twilight, or a few streamers, with none of the characteristics that mark the grander exhibitions of the phenomenon."

3. BARRIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS.

We are glad to have an opportunity of saying a few words on the subject of a letter which appears in our columns to day, from the Rev. W. F. Checkley, B. A. as follows:—

"I send you the names of the successful candidates from the Common Schools in this town for scholarships in the Grammar School. The examination took place to-day, and was conducted by myself in the presence of the Reeve, the Chairman and several members of the Board of Trustees, and other gentlemen. I consider the answering to be remarkably good, the more so as the notice given was so very short. As some of those who would have competed were in a Volunteer corps on the frontier, it seemed hard that they should be deprived of their chances of success, and as those who failed were but a short distance behind the others, it was determined, at the close of the meeting to offer three additional scholarships for competition in June next. Due notice will of course be given in the several schools of the day, and of the subjects for examination. Arrangements are, I am happy to say being made for holding competitive examinations for the scholarships lately offered to the schools in the Townships of this County. The first of these will take place very shortly, and I will take care to let you know the result."

Subsequently Mr. Checkley wrote as follows:—

According to promise, I send you the result of an examination for scholarships in our Grammar School, which took place in the Parochial School House on Wednesday last. The competition was limited to pupils from the Common Schools of the Township of Vespra, and strictly speaking, there was but one scholarship to be competed for. The Reeve, however, (J. Sissons, Esq.) wisely, I think, announced his intention of presenting the boy who stood second on the list to the scholarship which the Grammar School Trustees had placed in his hands.

The subjects required in future examinations of this kind will be in *Arithmetic*, proportion, with Vulgar and Decimal fractions; in *Geography*, an accurate knowledge of the Geography of the British Provinces in North America, and the outlines of general Geography. In *English Grammar* the analysis and parsing of ordinary sentences.

The question of education is of the very highest importance and the liberal spirit in which the authorities of our Grammar School have acted, deserves to be fully acknowledged.

We have the best grounds for stating that short as was the time given for preparation, the effect produced upon our Common School by this competition for scholarships in the higher Institution has already been very beneficial, and as its pupils will not only have a longer time to train and prepare themselves for the next struggle, but will also feel sure of being treated with the most absolute impartiality in the lists we may fairly expect a largely increased amount of good to result.

It will be seen from a notice in our present issue that the Grammar School Trustees offer annually a scholarship or free tuition for the space of two years to one boy from the Common Schools of each Township in the County, and that the head master will attend at any place named in the township, for the purpose of holding the necessary examinations. We gather from the letter above referred to, that the offer has been appreciated and that the townships are beginning to act in the matter.

Now independently of the boon thus afforded to boys of ability and industry, whose circumstances might otherwise keep them through life in the back ground, and prevent their talents from being useful to society, there can be no question as to the influence of such competition on our County Schools. Not only will the teachers generally be anxious that their pupils should do well and feel that their own credit is more or less involved in their success,

but the Trustees of each section will be dissatisfied with any Teacher whose idleness or incapacity places his pupils at a disadvantage.

To secure this end still more, certainly we would suggest to the head master of our Grammar School, taking the hint from his own letter, that the names of the candidates in each Township should be published in order of merit with the name of the Teacher, and the number of the sections attached. It would also, we think, be well to ask the local Councils to contribute something, say one-half towards the cost of maintaining the successful Candidate in Barrie. The expense to each Township would be the merest trifle, while the competition between the schools would be rendered much more keen and beneficial.

We observed that at the County School Conventions recently held by the chief Superintendent, the public without one dissentient voice, pronounced strongly in favor of doing away with the present cumbersome and expensive Board of Public Instruction, and of intrusting the examination of Common School Teachers to a smaller, differently selected, and better qualified Board. If the proposed alteration should become law, as we have no doubt it shortly will, we may expect to see a great improvement in the class of teachers employed in our County Schools, and as a necessary consequence, an increased desire for education, and more eager competition for such prizes as are now offered.

Hitherto, the high rate of fees and other causes have prevented our Grammar School from being as locally useful as it might and ought to be, but this state of things has passed away, and with the new law, new responsibilities and duties have arisen; and we are glad to see that by the competitive examinations already spoken of, and by other means the Trustees of that Institution are seeking to increase its usefulness. In the endeavor to accomplish this laudable object it must be admitted that the Trustees of our School are ably and energetically seconded by Mr. Checkley, the head master, whose zeal in the performance of his very onerous and difficult duties cannot be too highly estimated.

No surer or better means for extending the influence of our Grammar School to every other school in the County could be devised, than that of which we have spoken, and we feel perfectly convinced that its efforts to do good will benefit itself, and raise it in public estimation.

The boys selected will represent the best intellect and industry of the Town and County, and it can hardly be, that the head master should fail to sustain and increase the emulation thus created, and to make our Grammar School more useful than it has ever been as an educational centre.—*Northern Advance*.

4. THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS IN HAMILTON AND OTTAWA.

The board of School Trustees met last evening and decided on accepting the design of Mr. Rastrick for the new Grammar School building. The design appears to be in all respects a most excellent one, and it reflects credit upon the architect's skill and good taste. The building is to be of red brick faced with white stone of the "French Gothic" order of architecture. The frontage will be 67 feet with a depth of 65 feet. There will be two stories containing several class rooms, as well as rooms for the accommodation of masters and teachers. An advertisement calling for tenders for a suitable piece of land of not less than half an acre in extent, on which to erect the new building, will be found in our advertisement columns.

We congratulate our fellow citizens on the prospect of our having a really good public school in Hamilton, which shall obviate the necessity which now compels many parents who desire that their children shall receive a sound classical education, to send them away from home.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

How different the spirit in Hamilton to the spirit manifested in school matters in Ottawa. Hamilton already boasts of a School building—the Centre School—which, while being an ornament to the city and a credit to the energy and public-spiritedness of its people, is also well arranged and in every respect adapted for a large school. The classes of the Grammar School are taught in the "Central," but it has been shown that if the Common and Grammar Schools were separated both would prove more efficient. The citizens therefore propose to erect a Grammar School building, at a cost of \$5000; and, as will be seen from the above paragraph, the work will be shortly proceeded with. How is Ottawa—the capital of Canada in reality, and prospectively of British North America—a city nearly as large as Hamilton, as favourably situated for trade, and not more heavily burdened with debt—situated with regard to school buildings. We very much doubt whether parents, teachers, or trustees experience any satisfaction in looking at the unsightly building known as the Ottawa Senior Grammar School; and we are certain that they have no reason to feel flattered in its possession. Both Mr. Inspector