

chanting of the heavenly host, and with closed eyes I sat breathless, lest some glimpses of the unearthly glory should burst upon my unhallowed sight. No language can describe my deep emotion. You must see and feel it for yourself to know how strange and awful it is. I could not speak when all was over, and quietly stepped out to a corner, that I might indulge in the tears that were overflowing my eyes. It did not seem to me that this was the workmanship of mortals like myself, but that it must have come, as it was, fresh from the hands of the Creator, just as our Niagara did. We look like children walking about, and those but a few paces, apparently, from us were but notes in the grand pile.—*From the letter of an American Lady in Europe.*

Educational Intelligence.

CANADA.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

An Educational Convention was recently held in Montreal, at the instance of the *Canadian Institute*, to discuss the best means to be adopted to forward Education in Lower Canada; few persons attended and the convention was adjourned for some days. . . . A meeting of the teachers in the County of Northumberland, was held at Cobourg, on the 28th ult. The following addresses were delivered: Mental Arithmetic by Mr. E. Scarlett; a general address by the Chairman, the Rev. S. Tapscott; the natural Sciences in Schools, by Mr. Brown; the Teacher, by the Rev. W. Ormiston, B.A.; Mental Culture, by Mr. Boate; addresses were also delivered by the Rev. Mr. Blackstock and others, and the meeting adjourned, to meet again at Port Hope, on the first Friday in April. . . . The London British and Foreign School Society, has, under the supervision of the Rev. Mr. Dillon, and with the sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese, opened a Training Model School at London, U. C., Mr. Ballantyne is the master employed. The movement is designed to aid in promoting the education of the fugitive slaves and coloured population. . . . The Hastings Chronicle of a late date states, that, "It is now but four months since the corner stone of the Belleville Seminary was laid, since which time no effort has been wanting to push forward the work; in fact so rapid has been its progress it is now more than half finished, and the people of Hastings may well be proud of it. It is a magnificent building, and when completed, will afford facilities for educating the youth and not only the immediate town and county, but from different parts of the Province. It is admirably situated on a rise of ground commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country, at a distance about half a mile from the bustle and din of the town, and will be commodious in every point of view; and should the services of a worthy principal be secured, no town in Canada can afford better inducements to the student than Belleville. The body of the building has over 100 rooms, some 30 or 40 of which, are for boys and as many for girls.—Immediately between these apartments is a large room for a chapel, size 48 by 42 feet; besides there are 5 class-rooms for males, including the laboratory, 3 class-rooms for females, a drawing-room or parlour, a music-room and Teacher's room. The front elevation of the building is 130 feet, depth 92 feet, height from the ground to the top of the cupola 82 feet, and is supported by 12 iron columns and two brick walls from the foundation to the roof, which rests upon them. There are three flights of stairs, two in the main body of the building and one in the Principal's apartment. There are over 100 inside doors and 150 windows, and at the rear elevation there is to be a verandah of some 180 feet in length."

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN THE CITY OF TORONTO.—Extract from the report of Mr. Barber, the Local Superintendent, to the Board of School Trustees, 1st Nov. 1854.

"Referring to my previous reports, it will be found, that although the attendance of the city schools, thus far, since the vacation, has been on the whole satisfactory, the number of pupils now benefitting by the advantages secured to our youth of both sexes (by the excellent educational opportunities provided for them at the public expense) is not equal to what was returned for the first six months of the year, which exhibited an average of 1540, the greatest attendance having been in June, viz. 1,563, and the smallest in January, viz. 1,434.

I find that upon examination of the school registers, that while the average actual attendance for October has been 1,452 the mean of 1,440 and 1,464 as before stated) the number of pupils enrolled as attending school, has been 2,050, being 578 more than the actual attendance for the latter half of the month; and therefore proving that more than 25 per cent, or one fourth

of the children entered as pupils on the school books, may be considered as habitually irregular in their attendance—and this aggregate evidence of the caprice, or apathy, manifested by the parents of the children, is further marked by the fact, that, in one of the city schools where the greatest attendance on one day in October 18th, registered at 107, the smallest was no more than 53, or not quite one half!

To some extent this very marked, and I may be pardoned for adding, very discouraging feature, in the city schools which are all free, is attributable to the pressure of the times, which has compelled many parents to employ their children at home in assisting to maintain the family, but, be this as it may, it is clear to me, that an improved attendance must be obtained, otherwise the advantages proposed to be gained by means of Free Schools cannot be fairly said to be realized.

Considering a numerous and regular attendance of scholars as the key stone of successful popular education, and looking upon the question of numbers not only as regards the present large outlay for the maintenance of our schools, but also prospectively as regards the new and handsome school buildings now nearly completed, for the further benefit of the school population of this city, I take the liberty of offering the following suggestions on the important subject viz:—

1st.—That in accordance with the provisions of the 5th section of the 24th clause of the Upper Canada School Act of 1850, each ward, or say such wards as have a large population, should be divided into two sections, and a committee of not less than three persons (who take an interest in school matters) appointed to each section, expressly to see that all the children of school age, within their respective sections, attend school,—to use their influence in prevailing upon parents and guardians to send their children or wards regularly to school: and further, to do all in their power to assist the Local Trustees in realizing to the fullest extent the great moral and social benefits to be derived from our common schools.

2nd.—That as the teachers of the city schools have at present no school duties to attend to on Saturday, they be required to devote a portion of that day in visiting the abodes of those children who are either irregular in attendance, or not supplied with the necessary school books for the purpose of effecting, by their influence and persuasion, an improvement in these defects, at the same time communicating frequently with the Local Trustees and Committee upon these subjects.

Were these or some similar regulations established, I am of opinion that a decided improvement would be apparent in the numbers attending the city schools. It certainly may appear anomalous that parents should require any inducements, beyond their own sense of duty, to send their children to our schools where a good practical education can be obtained for no other cost than the few books necessary for study; but still, experience has shown that a remarkable indifference in regard to education does prevail, among even that class of our citizens to whom the advantages of a common school system ought to be most apparent, and most anxiously availed of.

In furtherance of the object to which my remarks point, namely, a greater increase in the number of pupils profiting by our public schools, it is my intention, at an early period, to address myself, by way of public lecture, to the parents and others, resident in the several wards of the city, especially on this all important subject of school attendance, so as to stimulate a more lively feeling, as well towards the best interests of their offspring, as towards their onward prosperity of our free school system."

CONVOCACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

A Convocation of the University of Toronto, was held on Friday afternoon the 24th instant, in the University Hall, the Hon. W. H. Blake, Chancellor, of the University presiding. There was a large concourse of ladies and gentlemen present, to witness the interesting proceedings. Shortly after two o'clock the Chancellor, the Senate, and the various professors, followed by the students, entered the Hall and took the places appointed for them respectively. The Chancellor dressed in a chastely ornamented handsome purple robe, was seated on a *dais* at the upper end of the hall, supported on each side by the mace bearers. The proceedings commenced by the following gentlemen being admitted to degrees.

To the Degrees of M. A.—Light (R. N.), Clark (A. M.), Morris (J. H.)

To the Degrees of B. C. L.—Boyd (J.) M. A.

To the Degrees of B. A.—Brown (J.), Marling (S. A.), Bayley (R.), Oille (L. S.), Blake (D. E.), Wells (R. M.), Jones (C.), McKeown (J.), Boulton (J. F.), Thom (J.), Trew (N. M.), Macgregor (C. J.), Crombie (E.), English (C.)

The degrees having been conferred, the several successful candidates came forward to receive their certificates of honour.