

Schools controlled by a voluntary attendance Committee, in whose support voluntary contributions take the place of taxes or rates in the sustentation of Board Schools. The latter schools are sustained by funds from three different sources: (1) Fees from the scholars, which cannot exceed 9d. per week for each scholar, and which generally vary in rural districts from 1d. to 6d. per week. 66.61 per cent. of scholars in England and Wales pay less than 3d. per week, 9.07 per cent. only are free; (2) The government grant, varying with results of examination and attendance; (3) Taxes, supplying any deficiency from above sources.

As pointed out, the two classes of schools agree in two out of three sources of support. The schools in cities and large towns are chiefly Board (entirely public and non-denominational) schools. In the rural districts, the voluntary schools—for the establishment of which, however, government aid is not given—largely preponderate. The ratio of the former to the latter is slowly increasing. Sources of voluntary aid dry up, and the schools are transferred to regular Boards. Lord Derby, at Liverpool, predicted "the final extinction of voluntary schools and the complete ascendancy of School Boards throughout the country." Such a result is obviously far off in the future, though we need not be surprised to find that the more reliable support of the system of rates enjoyed by the Board Schools, is giving them a confessed superiority as educational instruments. Altogether, the circular, a portion of whose contents we have summarized, is full of important information. Such points as school buildings, organization, modes of instruction, &c., are well elucidated. One marked distinction between English and American systems of public education is clearly pointed out, and some of its effects traced. As a rule, the English school is not patronized by those who control its management. It is for the children of other and humbler classes. The American, and, we may add, the Canadian, school represents a different type of idea, having for its motto, FREE FOR ALL AND GOOD ENOUGH FOR ALL.

#### VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.

The Convocation which took place at the conclusion of the exercises of Victoria University was one of great brilliancy and attraction. The assembly in the Town Hall, Cobourg, where it was held, comprised over 1,000 persons, and included a representation of beauty and learning which might vie with any similar assemblage in the world. The President of the Convocation, Rev. Principal S. S. Nelles, D.D., occupied the chair, and near him on the platform were Mayor Gravely, Cobourg, Mr. J. Field, M.P.P., Professors Wilson, Burwash, Rynar, Haanel, Smoke, members of the Board and Senate; Rev. R. Jones, Rev. A. Sutherland, D.D., Mr. Wm. Kerr, M.A., Q.C., Rev. S. Rose, D.D., Messrs. W. W. Dean, M.A., J. J. McLaren, M.A., LL.B., Q.C., Montreal; W. E. Sandford, Hamilton; J. Dumble, M.A., W. Beatty, LL.B., and other members of the Senate; Rev. A. Burns, D.D., D. C. McHenry, M.A., Mr. H. Hough, M.A., representatives of the Alumni in Arts; also Dr. Ogden,

Toronto; Rev. J. Wakefield, President London Conference; Rev. T. W. Jeffery, J. A. McLellan, LL.D., and J. M. Buchan, M.A., Inspectors of High Schools; J. E. Rose, LL.B., J. F. Jerman, M.A., and J. F. Gravely, of Cobourg.

The Rev. J. Wakefield having offered the opening prayer, the valedictory oration was delivered by Mr. L. V. Hill, who took for his subject "General Wolfe," and did full justice to the theme. Afterwards the prizes were delivered. The title of LL.D. was conferred on Mr. Adam Purslow, who won the degree by merit, and is the first to receive the honor in Victoria University. Dr. Aikins, President of the Toronto School of Medicine, had the honorary degree of LL.D. conferred on him, and the President spoke in eulogistic terms of that gentleman's high attainments. Similar praise was accorded to the abilities of Dr. D'Orsonnens, President of Montreal School of Medicine, upon whom the honorary title of LL.D. was also conferred. Mr. S. W. Perry, B.A., of Brampton, was presented with the Prince of Wales' Gold Medal by Mr. Sandford, of Hamilton, and Mr. J. M. Buchan, H. S. I., presented the silver medal to Mr. Chas. W. Lasby, B.A., of Acton. The scholarship in mathematics was presented to Mr. L. E. Horning, of Brantford, by Dr. J. A. McLellan, H. S. I.

In the course of an eloquent address which followed these interesting proceedings, Dr. Nelles announced that five new gold medals had been donated by the members of the Senate, viz.: for Classics, by Mr. W. E. Sandford; Modern Languages, by Dr. Sanderson; Mathematics, by Rev. J. Potts, D.D., and Mr. J. J. McEwen; and Metaphysics, by Rev. Dr. Nelles: also that Mr. S. J. Janes had added five silver medals as second prizes in these subjects. The President likewise announced that Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, of Cobourg, had given a handsome sum to endow a chair of theology in the University, and a gentleman whose name he was not at liberty to disclose had promised \$25,000 to endow another chair. These statements were received with rapturous applause. After short addresses by Revs. Dr. Sutherland and Dr. Rose, Judge Dean and Mr. Wm. Kerr, M.A., one of the most brilliant and successful convocations of the University was closed with the benediction by Rev. R. Jones.

—The National Union of Elementary Teachers met recently in London, and its members received considerable attention from distinguished persons. The Archbishop of Canterbury offered the use of Lambeth Church for the meeting, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress held a special reception in their honor at the Mansion House. In the course of an address to the teachers, the Lord Mayor asked them not to regard their assembling together in the light of a public meeting. He had hoped that a number of influential gentlemen would have been able to meet the teachers; but, unfortunately, the Conference was held at a time when "everyone was out of town." Considering that the teachers occupied a position of the greatest importance in the country, he felt that he should be doing less than his duty if he did not invite them to this public reception at the Mansion House. Happily for England, the days were past when no attention was paid to education—in fact, there