

Educational Intelligence.

CANADA.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

We have received an interesting account of the proceedings of a meeting of the inhabitants of L'Orignal, for the purpose of accepting from C. P. Treadwell, Esq., Sheriff of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, a site for a grammar school-house, accompanied with a handsome donation in the shape of four town lots. Steps are being taken to erect a grammar school forthwith, and the warm thanks of the inhabitants have been accorded to Mr. Treadwell for his generous liberality. In acknowledging the receipt of some apparatus and school requisites from the Educational Depository, Toronto, the intelligent and active teacher, Mr. J. T. McColl, of Kilworth, who had ordered them at his own expense, thus writes: "I have introduced them into my school, and find that they are calculated to supply that which has long been felt to be a desideratum. They are interesting and instructive to juveniles and adults. The children seem highly delighted with the lessons from them. In order to make my school still more a school of knowledge, and consequently more interesting and attractive, I herewith enclose £2 additional for a set of National History Object Lessons." From the *Barrie Herald* we learn that at the recent Examination of Teachers, in the County of Simcoe, the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Gowan, Judge of the County Court, after an excellent address on the duties and responsibilities of the newly licensed teachers, presented two valuable works as prizes to the candidate most proficient in grammar and geography. Mr. Lanon, of Penetanguishene, was the successful competitor. The *Western Progress*, of the 26th February, contains an excellent article upon the erection of good school houses, in connection with the interesting notice of the new school house which has lately been erected in school section No. 7, Nissouri, and West Zorra. From the writer's description of the house and premises, both seem, as it regards internal arrangement, ventilation, and outward attractiveness to realise the character of a model Canadian common school. In conclusion, he remarks: "We call the particular attention of our readers not only to the excellent house and its excellent arrangements, but also to the spacious grounds that have been secured to it. It is the intention of the trustees to surround the whole with a high close board fence, to divide the rear part of it into two separate yards, one for boys and the other for girls, in which suitable buildings will be erected, and to level and plant the ground with trees and shrubs. Fortunately several magnificent trees are already growing on the premises, where they were planted by the hand of nature. They are still young and vigorous, but we trust and pray that, until they become venerable with age, they may be the silent but solemn witnesses of a policy in the successive boards of trustees, as enlightened and liberal as that which has been pursued by the present incumbents; and that under their shade many a youth may sport or repose, who, in after life, shall honour his country by his talents, and bless mankind by a character and course of virtue and benevolence, the foundation of which shall have been laid there." We are happy to observe that vigorous efforts are being made to erect school houses, during the ensuing spring and summer, in the towns of Port Hope, Belleville, Perth, Brantford, &c., &c. May we venture to hope, that the admirable example of the trustees just referred to will not be lost sight of. The *British American*, of the 2nd instant, contains an extended notice of the recent school examination in the town of Woodstock. Much local interest seems to have been excited in the examinations, and in the success of the common schools of the town. The corporation were invited, and the Court House—the scene of the examinations—was crowded on the two evenings devoted to the exercises of the occasion. Col. Whitehead presided. The proceedings were conducted under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Ball, to whom George Alexander, Esq., in the course of an interesting address, stated the town was indebted for the origin and arrangement of so pleasing an entertainment. We cannot but urge the example of Woodstock upon other towns in Upper Canada, where the public are too apt to regard the success of the public schools as unimportant. The inhabitants of Bowmanville are about raising means for the establishment of a female academy in their beautiful village. From the report of the trustees in the town of Belleville, published in a local paper, we learn that out of a school population of 1,175, 1,103 pupils attended the free schools during 1851! A most gratifying argument in favour of free schools generally. In consequence of this great increase in the attendance of pupils over former years, the trustees intend to enter into contracts for the erection of three new brick school houses, 60 feet by 36. Steps have also been taken to erect three ward school houses in the town of Brantford, for similar reasons. The annual Examination in Knox's College took place about the middle of this month. They are reported as having been thorough and most satisfactory. About 50 students had been in attendance. Victoria College is reported to be in a very prosperous condition. A

Proprietary School for young ladies has lately been established in Toronto under the patronage of Bishop Strachan. The Municipal Council of Peterboro' and Victoria have acted upon the principle of not appointing any person to the office of local Superintendent of schools who would not be eligible to hold a first class certificate. This at least should be the lowest standard of appointment to such important offices. The Municipal Council of the Counties of York, Ontario, and Peel, are also anxious to fix a high standard for the office of local Superintendent. In the Report of the Educational Committee (concurring in by the Council) great stress is laid on the importance of continuing the circuit, in opposition to the township system of local superintendence. The committee is of opinion, that in order to conduce to the uniform and simultaneous attainment of improvement, which it ought to be the main object of all general systems to promote, it is necessary to render the sphere of duty allotted to the respective superintendents, sufficiently extensive as to require the whole undivided assiduous attention and ability of the persons filling such situations to be devoted to the service. And, in case of small divisions, it is obvious that such salaries as could be afforded for such services, would by no means afford remuneration for the services of the nature contemplated by your committee, and the natural result is and must be, the assumption of the highly responsible situation of school superintendents by individuals, who, whatever may be their ability or zeal in the cause of education, must and naturally will, make the discharge of their duties in that behalf, subordinate to the more imperative demands of their professional or other regular avocations. We have received, by local papers or in writing, accounts of the examinations of the following schools. Want of space alone prevents us from noticing each of them in detail, viz.:—Union Central School, London, U. C., Mr. H. Hunter, Principal; Hastings County Grammar School, Mr. A. Burdon, Principal; the Schools in Sections No. 2, Mosa, teacher not named; No. 1, St. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Crane, teachers; No. 4, Toronto Township, Mr. Walsh, teacher; No. 4, York Township, Mr. Diamond, teacher; the school in Mr. Boyd's Settlement, Mr. Warren, teacher—to this school, M. McDonnell, Esq., generously presented two brass mounted globes; the School at Ingersoll, Mr. Izard, teacher.

Normal School Examination.—The examinations of the pupils of this interesting institution were concluded on Wednesday, the 14th inst. A considerable number of strangers were present, and took much interest in the questions upon various subjects of study, some very abstruse and difficult, and in the prompt replies of the pupils, who, although fewer in number than in former years, appeared to be of a better class. The talents and industry of Messrs. Robertson and Hind were amply proved in all the departments. The most interesting examination, perhaps, was that upon the proper method of instruction and of managing schools; the directions for the government of children were truly admirable, and appeared to be firmly impressed on the minds of all the pupils. In agricultural chemistry, we have the authority of Mr. Buckland in saying, the examination was exceedingly good, and history appeared to be a favourite study. We were glad to learn that the history of Canada formed a very important department of this branch. After the conclusion of the examinations, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Schools, gave a short sketch of the events of the Session. He said that the Institution had lost its former buildings from the coming of the Government to Toronto—and its new edifice not being finished, there had been a want of accommodation, which had prevented him from endeavouring to increase the attendance of pupils. There was, in consequence a considerable reduction from former years. Ninety-three had applied for admission; thirteen had been refused, and eighty had been entered; but of these thirty-nine had been compelled to leave for various causes, and only forty-one were now present. The system they had formerly pursued of holding two sessions during the year, of five months each, had been abandoned, and one session of nine months introduced. The severe labour during this long time, had, however, a hurtful effect upon health, and nearly twenty pupils were obliged to leave in consequence, (with the intention of returning, however), and it was now determined to revert to the old plan. Some of the scholars who entered were found mentally incapacitated for the studies, they were recommended to retire. Others were compelled to leave from want of pecuniary means. Doctor Ryerson then proceeded to mention the progress of the pupils in agricultural chemistry, under Mr. H. Y. Hind; in writing under Mr. Stacy; and in drawing under Mr. William Hind, a brother of the former gentleman, who has recently arrived from England, with high testimonials from the Principals of the Government School of Art. A trial of four months had been given to this latter branch, and the proofs of progress which were placed around the walls, were very satisfactory indeed. They were all drawn from actual objects, and were not mere copies. Dr. Ryerson then proceeded to speak of the demand for qualified teachers, in consequence of the strictness of the County Boards of Examination, and the public money not being given to a school taught by any person not passed through their hands. The pupils of the Normal School were very much in demand; salaries of £75 to £100, were often given to them, and