

law, we have the advantage of any country or state I have yet visited. But, I believe, in some of the practical details of the working of the law important improvements can be made, especially in the more efficient inspection of schools, and in means to prevent the best teachers from early leaving their profession. The examples of Holland and Switzerland on these and several other subjects, will be very suggestive to us. The system of elementary instruction in the former was established when Holland was the Batavian Republic; that system has survived three revolutions—exists, with slight modifications, yet still non-denominational, after half a century's trial, in its entire integrity—receives small appropriations from the state (which yet oversees everything) and places Holland at the head of popularly educating countries. In some of its largest cities, there is reported not to be a child ten years of age, of sound mind, that cannot read and write. In Switzerland—a country hardly one-twelfth the size of Upper Canada, though with twice our population—there are no less than twenty-five republics, each with its own educational system—presenting, in many instances, very remarkable results—the whole affording an interesting and suggestive study for the educationalist, and even statesman, in a country like our. I do not see any pressing necessity for immediate school legislation. But if it be thought otherwise, I am prepared to offer the government, or submit to any committee of the Legislative Assembly, all the suggestions I have to make to improve some of the details of our school system, and which require the aid of legislative enactment. However, my own impression is, that the more satisfactory and efficient mode of proceeding will be, for the press to discuss (as far as it may think proper) and the country consider the facts and suggestions of my special report until the next session of the legislature, when all parties will be prepared for a (what to me will be a final) revision and consolidation of our whole school system.

— DR. RYERSON'S SPECIAL REPORT ON EDUCATION.—The day before the close of the Session, the Hon. M. C. Cameron, Provincial Secretary, presented to the Legislative Assembly, "a Special Report," from the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, "on the Systems and State of Popular Education, in several countries of Europe and the United States of America; with practical suggestions for the Improvement of Public Instruction in Upper Canada." On the outside of the backs of the report is a summary table of contents, as follows:—"Brief account (with comparative views and practical remarks) of the Systems and State of Popular Education in France, Holland, Belgium, Prussia, Switzerland, Baden, Wurtemberg, Bavaria, Austria, Saxony, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Ireland, Scotland, England, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Practical suggestions for the improvement of Public Instruction in Upper Canada." At the close of his note to Mr. Cameron, transmitting his Special Report, Dr. Ryerson intimates his intention to make a separate Report on Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, with suggestions.

HELLMUTH COLLEGE.—The valuable services of the Very Rev. Dean Hellmuth, in connection with the establishment of theological and secular educational institutions in this city, and other works of public benefit, were publicly acknowledged on Friday last, by the formal presentation to the Dean, by the Mayor, in presence of a large number of ladies and prominent citizens, the masters of the college and the students, of a massive piece of silver plate, in the form of a salver, and the deed creating the "Hellmuth scholarship," of the yearly value of \$100. The presentation took place in the large dining-hall of the college, where the address accompanying the testimonial was read by his Worship, Mayor Smith, on behalf of the subscribers, and the presentation formally made. The Dean replied in a feeling manner, reviewing the rise and progress of the college, and the facilities and advantages it possesses for the scholastic training of the youth of the Province, based upon the soundest Christian principles. The knowledge that his efforts in connection with the establishment of this great work were appreciated by the public, and acknowledged in so generous a way, deeply affected the Rev. Dean, as was evident by the touching manner in which he delivered his reply. That the testimonial is fully deserved, there is but one opinion, and the citizens of London, with unanimous accord acknowledge the extraordinary enterprise, energy, and liberality with which the Dean has applied himself to the work of improvement within the city. His first step on arriving here from Quebec, in 1862, was the establishment of Huron College, a theological institution for the preparation of young men desirous of entering the church. As Principal of the College, Dr. Hellmuth was indefatigable in his efforts to advance the welfare of the institution, and sought by all

means in his power to surround it with every facility for the promotion of its special objects. A neat chapel was soon built in close proximity to it, which has proved a great accommodation to the residents in the northern part of the city, who, previous to its erection, had to travel a long distance to reach a place of worship. His active mind next turned in the direction of a secular institution, which should rank as high as any in the Province. To carry out his plans no less a sum than \$80,000 was requisite, and by his own princely munificence, and the aid of friends whom he succeeded in interesting in the enterprise, the amount was speedily raised. The corner stone of the magnificent pile of buildings, now known as "Hellmuth College" (formerly Collegiate Institute) was laid on the 17th of October, 1864, and on the first of September, 1865 the Institute was opened with an able staff of masters, and 93 boys in attendance. The following year the demand for admission necessitated additional accommodation, which was provided, and one hundred and fifty-five scholars entered. Last year the number was one hundred and fifty-nine. There are thirteen masters engaged in the work of tuition—Rev. Arthur Sweetman as head master. The most of them are graduates of Trinity College, Dublin; University of Edinburgh, and Toronto University. As a proof of the efficiency of the course pursued, it may be mentioned that the three pupils sent up to compete in the examination of senior matriculants at University College, Toronto, last September, all obtained "honours," and one the "classical scholarship." Success has therefore in a high degree rewarded the efforts of the Dean in this respect, and the public concede every praise to him for his energy, foresight and liberality in founding so valuable an institution. Early last summer the idea of giving public expression to the admiration felt on all sides for the success of the work he had so spiritedly undertaken, first manifested itself, and in a short time a subscription list was opened and signed by one hundred and seventy gentlemen, representing a sum of \$881.20. The Dean, on receiving intimation of the proposed testimonial, desired that it should take the form of a scholarship, to be added to the four already offered for competition. This request was complied with, and a portion of the subscriptions, sufficient to return \$100 annually, was invested with that object; the balance of the fund was expended in a solid silver salver, from the establishment of J. G. Joseph, Toronto, with the following inscription neatly engraved upon it:—"Presented with the deed creating the 'Hellmuth Scholarship,' of the yearly value of one hundred dollars in Hellmuth College, for the benefit of the pupils, to the Rev. Isaac Hellmuth, D.D., Dean of Huron, by the inhabitants of London and others, as a testimonial of their appreciation of his labour in founding the College, and of the benefit promised the youth of Canada from its teachings. This salver is also to evidence the esteem and respect of the donors for Dr. Hellmuth, and to record the fact that their offering took its shape for the benefit of the pupils at his own request. London, Ontario, March, 1868." Before the interesting proceedings at the College were brought to a close, the head master, Rev. A. Sweetman, announced that a holiday would be granted on Monday, in commemoration of the change of the name of the College.

TOSSORONTO—TOWNSHIP EXAMINATION.—On the 20th of December last another Township Examination was held in Tossoronto. There were present sixty children, a considerable numbers of parents, Ladies and others—all, evidently, deeply interested in the important and hopeful work of the day. The Examination was principally conducted by the L. Superintendent and the three Clergymen, Mr. McLeary, Mr. Addison, and Mr. Hislop, acted as judges. They thus occupied a responsible position; and one which is capable of being turned to a bad, as well as a good account, and they spared no efforts that the former might be shunned, and the latter secured. Their work embraced all the subjects taught during 1867, in the different schools represented—extending from the first of the First Book, to Mathematics and Equations in Algebra, and continued from 10 a.m. till 9 p.m.; and about one hundred valuable prizes were distributed—some carried away several, and few none. We regard the general distribution of Books as very desirable; and feel confident, that, when we secure it, we have obtained a serviceable object. It was the experience of the Examiners, Judges, Candidates, and Spectators, that the work done then and there, in ten hours, was too much in one day. In addition to the amount of labour performed, all were so crowded, and some sometimes so puzzled—in one case it was impossible to decide who were entitled to prizes, so all were treated as equally deserving—that it was very wearisome. But there was at hand, for both body and mind, ready and acceptable relief, which was thankfully and vig-