

On Wednesday, 27th ult., a Pic-nic was held for the entertainment of the pupils of the school in Great Village.

The day appointed proved as fine as we could wish, and at an early hour we assembled at the school-room. Processions formed at one o'clock, and marched to the picnic grounds—distant about three-quarters of a mile. The pupils amused themselves with swings and other games until half-past three, at which time they repaired to tables near the margin of the Great Village River, which were beautifully shaded with trees and shrubbery, and loaded with every dainty which the thoughtful care of our kind parents could suggest. After the appetites (which had been necessarily sharpened by the previous exercises) had been satisfied, the pupils returned to their sports, and refreshments were then partaken of by our parents and friends, who favoured us with their presence. After the tables were cleared away the pupils were called into a beautiful arena, where they recited several interesting dialogues, among which were "City sights with Country eyes," "The Yankee Marksman," the "Model School," and others.

The recitations and exercises were interspersed with appropriate music. "Ossian's Serenade," "Vacation Days," "Yearly Jubilee," &c., were among the pieces sung. This was followed by an entertaining exercise on the principles of penmanship; and an address from Commissioner W. E. McRobert, M.D., in which he spoke of the benefits likely to result from the pupils committing to memory, and also in commendatory terms of the perseverance and progress exhibited.

The whole performance reflected credit on the teachers, Mr. W. D. Corbet and Miss Amelia Spencer, and the scholars. The proceedings closed with the "National Anthem," in which all joined with true British fervor, and returned to their homes, feeling, no doubt, satisfied with the day's pleasure, and in joyful anticipation of the Vacation which was thus pleasantly commenced.—*Cor. Amherst Gazette.*

Hants Co.—Mr. Editor,—My notes of inspection for the month, furnish some interesting particulars of educational progress.

The people of the Hantsport section have lately purchased the upper story of the large and splendid building in which their school is kept, and the lower story of which they purchased more than a year ago. The entire building is now the property of the section, costing altogether \$3000. By an internal alteration of the house lately made, the school has now the whole benefit of this enlarged accommodation. The High School is assigned to the beautifully finished upper room, size 40 x 40. The Elementary and Preparatory Departments have each a room 26 x 30, and there are still left two rooms 10 x 20 each, besides the capacious entrance rooms above and below. The Hantsport section has no idea of lagging behind in the educational race.

On the 24th inst., I visited the Elmsdale section. Here a school-house 25 x 34, and two stories high—the upper part being used as a Hall—has recently been erected. The old house—size about 12 x 15—has been moved a few yards to make room for the new one, and will continue to be occupied by the school while the other is being completed. These two houses—the one large and stylish, the other insignificant and mean,—seem in their present close proximity very clearly to mark the line where the old educational dispensation ends and the new begins.

The day following found me in the Renfrew school. In this school there are scholars from different counties in Nova Scotia, from different provinces of the Dominion, and from some of the States of the neighbouring Union, their parents having been drawn to the place by the prospect of gain. But the best site in all the Diggings, in my opinion, is Mr. Greenough's school. Here, wherever an excavation is made, the gleaming ore is discovered, and no crusher is needed to extract it. At the close of the inspection, which was creditable alike to teacher and taught, seventy-four children rose and sang "God save the Queen" with an enthusiasm which made my loyal blood tingle in every vein.

A school-house 22 x 35 has lately been erected in Renfrew, to be finished in the fall vacation. It is, however, rather small for the section. But the people, knowing the fluctuations to which gold mining populations are liable did not like to build larger.

The Welsford section—now enlarged by a large slice from Colchester County—will probably make arrangements at the coming annual meeting, for a building similar in style and capacity to those in Selma and Rockville.

The contract for the Windsor school-house has been let. It is to be 34 x 70, two stories, and finished by the end of October.

July 1867.

D. M. WELTON, *Inspector Hants Co.*

Kings Co.—Wm. Eaton, Esq., Inspector, writes as follows.—"To any one at all conversant with the position of school matters in this County a few years ago, either with respect to buildings, apparatus, text-books, play-grounds, out-buildings, method of teaching, or special interest in school affairs manifested by trustees, a comparison with things as they now are cannot but be a source of deep gratification as showing the advantage of system over loose, desultory operations.

Satisfactory progress during the present term is almost everywhere apparent. Nine new school-houses are being erected, and a few repaired. These will be ready for occupation at the commencement of the coming term. Wolfville, Kinsman's Corner, and

Lakeville are having large buildings, and of a style in keeping with the importance of the object for which they are built. Scarcity of money, difficulty in selection of suitable sites, and opposition of a few narrow-minded individuals who seem to regard their own private pecuniary matters as paramount to every other consideration, are reasons why ten others, for which arrangements for building were made last autumn, are not now in process of erection. We may fairly conclude, however, that those sections where failure to carry out the resolutions passed last autumn occurred from either of the above causes, successful efforts will be made next term.

Scarcely anything arrests the attention of any one acquainted with the almost endless diversity of text-books which have heretofore been used, more than the general introduction of the prescribed books—especially the readers. Very few schools are without a suitable supply. The delay (I suppose unavoidable) in reference to text-books in Grammar and Geography is felt seriously in many of the schools, as there is an unwillingness to purchase anything like a sufficient supply of the kinds which have been in use, not knowing how soon they are to be superseded by others.

There are a few more schools in operation this term than in the corresponding term of last year, and the attendance in most cases is highly satisfactory.

Although individual instances of opposition are frequently to be found, yet, without doubt, the present school law is winning its way generally into the affections of the people, so that if the present measure, if advancement is continued, there will shortly not be a section in the county in which there will not be found a large majority ready to lend their hearty efforts in carrying it into effect.

The Teachers' Association, located in Kentville, and which holds its meetings quarterly, cannot be without its influence for good. Essays and discussions on school management and method of teaching, are the means taken for mutual improvement."

Antigonish Co.—Rodk. McDonald, Esq., Inspector, reports: "During this month I have examined twenty-five schools and visited a few more. I am happy to state that there is every appearance of improvement. Since this time last year the attendance is better, there is more system, and the progress of pupils is satisfactory. In some of the schools visited, however, there is confusion in the reading classes, owing to the want of uniformity in the text-books. Five sections, in which there was no school last winter, have schools this summer, and I have every hope, that ere long, there will be a school in every section in the county. Mr. Staples, from Halifax, visited several schools with me, and gave instructions in the art of penmanship. From the lucid manner in which he explained his excellent system, I have no doubt that his visits will prove of much benefit. I very much regretted that his stay could not be prolonged, so that every school in the county might benefit by his instructions."

Annapolis Co.—The Rev. George Armstrong, in his monthly statement, speaks as follows.—"The good results of the working of the new school law in the hands of the people, and with their co-operation is apparent almost everywhere in this county—at least in by far the greater number of sections. The schools in operation this term will exceed by at least one-fifth the number open during the last term. Several poor sections, in which no schools were in operation last term, and in some of which none had been kept for years, have schools now working well. Some of them under the direction of first class teachers. Such sections begin to see, some of them clearly, the great advantages put directly within their reach by the new law. This is very encouraging. True, some poor sections seem resolved to remain poor, and to condemn their children to ignorance and degradation. This is sad. Some sections, too, in the county, abundantly able to provide well for the education of the children within their borders, are doing nothing to educate them. This is yet sadder, but the light is spreading, and hard and dark places must, ere long, yield their cherished prejudices, and repudiate impracticable and definit notions."

The County Academy is now in full operation. Mr. Alex. Ross, B. A., holds the head mastership. The preparatory department is under the charge of Mr. Augustus Fullerton, while the elementary department is under the charge of Miss M. O. Starrall. These teachers are fully competent for their work. Notwithstanding obstacles which heretofore existed, and which need not now be mentioned, Annapolis section is doing well, and seems determined to prepare her children intellectually, at least for the times of improvement and prosperity which are soon, it is hoped, to dawn upon them.

Bridgeport is also doing well, having established a graded school under competent teachers, Mr. M. J. Lyons having charge of the preparatory department, the elementary department being under the control of Miss A. Martell. The classification of pupils according to their attainments and capabilities without any nice regard to age, thus making two or three departments, and assigning one or more teachers to each, is an excellent plan. This division of labour is found to work admirably and efficiently wherever it has been tried. The good results are seen very clearly in this section; there is better order, more study, and much more efficiency than in an ordinary miscellaneous school with the same material.

I am happy to be able to report that the new school-house in Bridgetown has been opened this term for its appropriate and much needed use. A graded school is now in efficient operation in it under competent teachers, the preparatory department being under the charge of Mr. C. W. Hiltz, and the elementary under the care