

gains encouragement and strength by being thus brought in contact with others engaged in the same pursuit. Toiling on alone in his isolated district, surrounded by obstacles and discouragements, weighed down by care, and finding none to sympathize with him he is almost ready to faint in his course and perhaps to abandon his calling. But after attending an Association, he feels that a noble brotherhood of kindred spirits are laboring in the same field under trials and discouragements similar to those which have oppressed him. He derives new strength from the sympathy of his friends. A professional feeling is engendered which will accompany him to his School-room; and when he goes home it is with renewed vigor and fresh aspirations to be a better man and a better Teacher.\*

## IX. Educational Intelligence.

### — ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION FOR UPPER CANADA.

—The fifth annual Convention of the Teachers' Association of Canada West, will be held in the Temperance Hall, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 1st of August next, and continue in session four days. The attention of teachers, superintendents, &c., is respectfully directed to the circular accompanying this number, containing full particulars of the matters to be brought before the Convention; and trustees are respectfully requested to forward the circular to the teacher of the section as soon as it comes to hand.

### — PUBLIC COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION OF THE SCHOOLS IN EAST OXFORD.

—Some time ago a few of the spirited teachers of the township, suggested to their representative councillors the propriety of having a public competitive examination of all the schools in the township, and at the same time requested an apportionment of money for the purpose of procuring prizes for those who should, on trial, prove to be the most deserving and successful pupils. The councillors, with a readiness which bespeaks their intelligence, promptly granted a sum of twenty-five dollars for that purpose. Books to double that amount were accordingly obtained from the education office in Toronto. Thursday last, the 20th inst., was the day appointed for this intellectual tournament. On entering the Town Hall the appearance of so many bright eyes and smiling faces certainly shewed that something was up with the young folks; and we had not long to wait till they shewed us what entertainment they had in store for visitors. The business commenced by the appointment of Mr. Edward Topping as Chairman, and was kept up until after six o'clock in the evening. Prizes (over 80) were then distributed to the successful candidates, and an hour later the whole business of the day had terminated. The examiners being men of practical experience in teaching, the public may believe when we say that the examinations were close and searching, and bespeak great intelligence and application on the part of both teachers and pupils. We hesitate not to say that those schools are conducted on the most approved modes of teaching, and that the teachers are men of untiring energy—on no other supposition could the pupils have presented such a creditable appearance as they did; and we would sincerely wish that every school section in Canada were furnished with such excellent teachers as these. Teachers and pupils, we believe, had a like reason to be satisfied with the result of the day's proceedings, and we sincerely trust that the competitive examinations, so auspiciously begun, will be kept up; and that every township in the country will imitate so laudable an example.—*Woodstock Times.*

—SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S CONVENTION.—On the 20th ult. the Toronto Sunday School Teachers' Convention was held in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, that commodious edifice having been crowded with an intelligent audience. Mr. S. H. Blake took the chair and commenced the evening's proceedings by giving out a hymn. The Rev. Dr. Caldwell engaged in prayer, at the conclusion of which the chairman delivered a very interesting address upon the management of Sunday schools, in which he gave useful hints as to the training and preparations of teachers, the better to fit them for the important and responsible duty of instructing those who might, in the providence of God, be placed from time to time under their charge. Mr. Blake then spoke at some length and with considerable force upon the subject—"Our aim—the Salvation of the precious Souls of our Scholars." Mr. Clark followed in an appropriate address on the subject—"How can we, as Sabbath School Teachers, better qualify ourselves for the work?" Mr. Kimball examined a class of

ten scholars, five boys and five girls, selected from five Sunday schools, upon a lesson—the 9th chapter of St. John—in a masterly and satisfactory manner. The questions were freely and correctly answered although Mr. Kimball had not previously instructed the pupils in the lesson, which had merely been given them to study. At the conclusion of this exercise Mr. Laufer, Superintendent of the Queen street Wesleyan Methodist School, delivered a very pleasing address upon the subject—"What are the relations of the Sabbath School to the Church?" A hymn was then sung, the Rev. Mr. Marling pronounced the benediction, and the company separated.—*Leader.*

—PARIS SCHOOL PRESENTATION.—The young Ladies of the Classical Department, having heard that Mr. Anderson was about to vacate for a period of three months, the situation he has held during the last five years, as Teacher in the Union School, determined that previous to his departure, they would present him with a token of their high appreciation of his unwearied and faithful exertions on their behalf. Accordingly, they presented him with a handsome Photographic Album and an address. Having received no intimation of the intention of the pupils, Mr. Anderson found some difficulty in making a suitable reply.—*Paris Star.*

—QUEBEC SEMINARY.—A fire broke out at one o'clock on Saturday morning, and in a short time burned down the wing of the Quebec Seminary, a stone building four stories high, over 200 feet long and 40 feet deep, erected about forty years ago in an eastern extension. The fire extended likewise to the main building, destroying nearly 100 feet thereof, and threatening the destruction of not only the Seminary but the Bishop's Palace and the French Cathedral, which are connected with the Seminary by passages. The Laval University was likewise at one time in great danger of being burnt. Fortunately the wind was not high. Everything was burned in the new wing, one priest having to jump from the third story for his life, while many of the students only escaped from their sleeping apartments half dressed. Most of them have lost their clothing and books. The Seminary was consumed by fire in the year 1701 and 1705. It was also damaged to a serious extent in the siege of 1759. Originally it was constructed on three sides of a square it compassed about 300 feet long. To this the wing just burned down was added. The present damage is variously estimated at about \$50,000. The extent of insurance is considerable.

## THE QUEEN'S BIRTH DAY A HOLIDAY.

As will be seen by reference to page 52 of the April number of the *Journal*, the anniversary of the birth day of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen is hereafter to be observed as a regular holiday in all the public schools of Upper Canada.

## NEW SCHOOL HISTORY OF CANADA, — GEOGRAPHIES.

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All communications to be addressed to J. GEORGE HODGINS LL.B. *Education Office, Toronto.*

\*It will be gratifying to the Teacher to know that a Regulation has recently been adopted by the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada authorizing Teachers to devote five days during the year to visiting each others' schools. See *Journal* for last month, pages 50 and 53.