

less than at the examination held in June last, yet owing to the 'grouping system,' the amount of work to be done was very much greater, and therefore your committee could not finish its labors in less than double the time it was engaged at last examination.

"Mathematics.—The paper in algebra offered few difficulties to candidates. That in arithmetic, however, afforded an excellent test, and your Committee desires to say that it felt the greatest pleasure in reading the papers of the candidates in this subject, that the power of analysis evinced by many pupils was astonishing, and that very great improvement has evidently been made in the schools during the last half-year. In Euclid a fair knowledge of book work was shown; the solution of geometrical problems, other than book work, was not frequently attempted.

"Dictation, Composition, and English Grammar.—The spelling both in the set pieces and in the papers generally was exceptionally good. The compositions were fair; in grammar the analysis and parsing were in general good. On the other hand, the Greek and Latin roots of English words were seldom correctly given, and the criticism of sentences of ambiguous or doubtful construction, was scarcely attempted. Punctuation with many candidates seems to have been entirely neglected.

"History, Geography, and English Literature.—This was one of the most satisfactory groups your committee examined. In history the questions demanded of the candidates not only a knowledge of particular facts, but a power of generalization, a conception of method, and a facility of arranging disjointed details (as given in the text books) in one comprehensive answer. These requirements were evidently possessed by many candidates. In geography there has been considerable improvement on last year. Some of the maps were drawn with remarkable fidelity. In literature your committee met with results which testified in the strongest manner to the wisdom of the Department in substituting the study of particular works of authors for a general acquaintance with the subject. The answers to questions bearing on the works of Scott and Grey were remarkably good. The candidates had evidently carefully studied these works and caught their spirit and meaning. But when answers were attempted having reference to authors not read in the schools, numerous and egregious blunders occurred.

"Optional Subjects.—It seems to have been thought by some candidates that to pass in these subjects was not obligatory. At all events the papers in this set were not so good as in the others. But few attempts at translating English into Latin were made. The French was not nearly so good as last year's. The translation from De Fivas was in general very badly done, and the accident not more than passable. The questions in chemistry were not of a character to enable your committee to determine whether candidates had been accustomed to experiments. Most succeeded in passing in natural philosophy. The answering in book-keeping was bad, owing possibly to the essentially practical character of the subject, which makes it a difficult one to teach in schools.

"In conclusion, your committee desires to speak in terms of the warmest commendation of the answering as a whole, the improvement on last June being such as to evoke frequent expressions of astonishment from the examiners."

Contributed.

Valedictory.

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED TO THE PUPILS OF SOM-BRA SCHOOL, NO. 14, BY THE TEACHER.

Can it be true that I must part
With those I love so well,
Must give the parting hand and go
Away from them to dwell.

No more to meet their playful smiles,
Or share their merry glee;
No more with them in solemn prayer
To bow the suppliant knee.

Oh! yes, the time draws to a close,
And I must bid farewell
To this dear, happy, youthful band,
With whom I love to dwell.

But while I bid you all adieu
The tears unbidden start,
Yet faith points to a time when we
May meet no more to part.

With you, my pupils, ever dear,
I've met day after day;
Two years and more, now passed and gone,
Nor wished from you to stay.

For in "The School" I loved to meet
Your smiling faces bright,
And hear your voices softly raised,
Your lessons to recite.

You heeded not the summer's heat,
Nor feared the winter's cold,
But to the school-room found your way
With footsteps firm and bold,

The path of learning to pursue,
Your youthful minds to improve
And store with various sciences,
With virtue and with love.

But now the solemn hour has come
And we must parted be,
Permit me then, my pupils dear,
To say, "Remember me!"

When youth and beauty fade away
And age is drawing nigh,
Remember when I said to you
These solemn words: "Good bye!"

And if we never more should meet
On this side of the tomb,
May Heaven's angels guard you to
Your everlasting Home,—

Where Jesus says we all may come
And never more shall part,
But dwell with Him at His right hand—
The Teacher and the taught.

AMELIA BEAN.

Sombra, December, 1876.