

Montreal, Ottawa, Belleville, Dundas, Ingersoll, and Prescott. Already several towns in the United States, where coal gas is very expensive, are making enquiries; and a contract has been entered into for the erection of works with at least one extensive factory, namely, that of Chickering Brothers, the renowned piano manufacturers of Boston. This establishment is expected to be lighted with the new gas on or about the 10th of this month. This fact alone goes far to show the high esteem with which this new invention is regarded; and should its introduction at this factory give the same satisfaction it has given at other places where it has been tried, this new and cheap gas will no doubt before long come into general use.

THE ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS, AND EVENING CLASS INSTRUCTION.

In another portion of this number, we publish the Board of Arts programme of the next annual examinations, to which we beg to direct the attention not only of the youth for whose *special* benefit they have been established, but of parents and employers of youth in the various industrial pursuits. These examinations, modelled after the examinations of the London *Society of Arts*, were organized by the Board in the year 1863, and continued in 1864 and 1865.

The number of candidates, papers on different subjects, and certificates awarded were as follows:

	1863.	1864.	1865.
Number of Candidates	7	17	11
Papers examined on different subjects	9	43	27
First class certificates awarded	1	6	4
Second " " "	2	11	6
Third " " "	4	19	5
Silver medal awarded	1	0	0

From some cause or causes, the volunteer movement no doubt being one, no candidates presented themselves for the examinations in May 1866. This is to be regretted, as there can be no doubt of the benefits accruing to all engaging in such exercises, and the studies necessarily preparatory thereto.

A paper published under the auspices of the *Glasgow Athæneum*, in the year 1858, in reference to the examinations of the *London Society*, contains the following paragraph:—

"If any thing were wanting to enforce the benefits accruing from the Society's examinations it might be derived from the approbation signified by the great number of Master Manufacturers, Railway Directors, and Bankers throughout England, and of the leading commercial firms in London and in the Provinces, which have declared their readiness to accept the certificates of the Society as a guarantee of proficiency."

The number of candidates at the examinations of the Society referred to, is constantly increasing, year by year; and we hope the same will be the case with the examinations of this Board, so soon as their usefulness is properly appreciated. A short time since we received a communication from "a *Working Man*" of this city, in which he says:—

"I was looking over some of the numbers of your Journal—the articles on the Board of Arts Examinations drew my attention, and I read them. I think that these examinations are calculated to be very beneficial to young men, but I was sorry to see that very few had entered the lists; and I began to think of some plan to make them more successful.

I think that if you had a more enticing reward they might be successful. Could not some of our merchants be coaxed into giving a small amount each, towards buying a good prize? say a rifle or shot-gun, which I think would take very well; or could not the worthy Directors of the Mechanics' Institute be induced to offer a life-membership in their excellent institution, as a reward for the one who obtained the greatest number and highest grade certificates? Or if this would be stretching their generosity too far, let it be a membership for one or more years, as they may see fit."

In an article upon this subject, in the *Journal* for August 1864, we wrote as follows:—

"It is to be regretted that the financial circumstances of the Board do not allow of the awarding of prizes of an actual money value to the successful candidates, as is the case in connection with the examinations of the London Society of Arts, whose system is in other respects pretty closely followed. We would fain hope that some of our men of wealth, having the interests of the industrial classes at heart, may follow the good example set by John Macdonald, Esq., M.P. for Toronto, in founding a *Bursary* in Toronto University College for the benefit of the sons of working men, and endow a Board of Arts EXAMINATION FUND for the benefit solely of the working classes. We fully appreciate the generosity of Mr. Macdonald in making the endowment above referred to, and in the name of the working men return him thanks; but liberal as the act is on his part, it is not calculated directly to benefit to any appreciable extent those who are intending to follow mechanical pursuits—the sons of mechanics studying the learned professions will be benefited, but not mechanics themselves, as instances are rare indeed of Graduates of Universities following any of the ordinary industrial occupations."

"An endowment of such an Examination Fund as is above indicated would directly reach the parties for whom intended, and lead to such a course of private studies, or to connection with Mechanics' Institutes evening classes—which are now with so much benefit being organized in some localities—as would gradually elevate the character and capabilities of our artizans, and redound to the credit and prosperity of the Province."

We would again express a hope, either that such a fund may be founded by private individuals, or that the Board may soon have such an appropriation as shall enable it to establish prizes in money and medals, in addition to the usual certificates. Youths engaged in laborious mechanical or other industrial pursuits, for from 10 to 12 hours each