

THE ONTARIO TEACHER:

A MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.

Vol. 1.

APRIL, 1873.

No. 4.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

To the young teacher, his first public examination is a matter of great importance. Much depends upon the appearance which his school may present to his constituents, and the thoroughness which his pupils may evince in the varied exercises in which they may be examined. He looks forward with a great deal of anxiety and nervous trepidation to the hour when the visitors may be expected to present themselves, and passes mentally over in review all his classes to assure himself that there is little danger of a failure on the part of any one of them.

To ensure the success of a public examination several things are necessary. Primarily, however we must mention, *thoroughness*. Indeed we might say that every element essential to a successful school is also essential to a public examination. We lay it down as indisputable that no school deserves the name, in which every scholar is not well grounded in every branch he presumes to study. Secure this, and no teacher

need have much fear but his scholars will acquit themselves well before the public. And here let me guard teachers against an error, if not a crime, which many of them commit, that is *special cramming* for public exhibitions. We have known in many cases in our experience that the teacher had prepared a regular set of questions, that certain scholars knew that such and such questions would, in all probability, be asked of them and that thus prepared they would have no excuse if they failed. Now while we trust that such cases of cramming are few, while the greater number of our teachers, particularly those of the present day, are men of high honor and incapable of stooping to conduct so base, yet there can be no doubt that such things have been done. And lest any teacher should so far forget himself as to stoop to a repetition of this course, we would remark that to himself and to his pupils there could be nothing so demoralizing, nothing calculated so to