

ascence. After the capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453, the great Greek and Latin scholars who lived in that city, packed up their priceless manuscripts and books, and fled to Italy, Germany, France, and even into England. These scholars became teachers; they taught the Greek and Roman classics to eager and earnest learners; and it came to pass in course of time that every one who wished to become an educated man studied the literature of Greece and Rome. From this time began an enormous importation of Latin words into our language. Being imported by the eye and the pen, they suffered little or no change. Neither the organs of speech, nor the ear affected either the pronunciation or the spelling of them. If we look down the columns of any English dictionary we shall find these later Latin words in hundreds. *Opinionem* became opinion; *factionem*, faction; *pungentem* passed over in the form of pungent; *pauperem* came in as pauper; and *separatum* became separate." This change went on not only during the sixteenth but also during the commencement of the seventeenth century, and its effect upon the language were so extensive that it nearly altered its character, in so far as the vocabulary is concerned. It being, therefore, an undoubted fact that the great majority of Latin words came directly from that language into the English, and not through the medium of the Norman-French, is it not wise on this account if for no other reason, to insist that the teaching of Latin shall not occupy any secondary or subordinate place in the course of instruction; and is it not also well that young students should be required to pursue a subject which the wisdom of ages has shown to be the best mental discipline for all persons.

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#### St. Patrick's Girls' High School.

The closing exercises of St. Patrick's Girls' High School, Halifax, which were of an unusually interesting character, took place yesterday. In the senior section Chairman Longard presided, ably assisted by the archbishop and the superintendent of education. There were present Commissioner Eden, H. D. Blackadar, Dr. Murphy and Father Daly, besides several other clerical gentleman, Mother Bonaventure, parents of the pupils, and others.

After the opening chorus, Dr. MacKay examined the pupils in geometry, taking them over the familiar ground by entirely novel paths. The very foundations of their geometrical faith were laid bare. They were made to appreciate the beauty of the logical processes by which they arrived at even the simplest inferences. Every statement was subjected to the touchstone of axiomatic principles. The pupils enjoyed the intellectual exercise and acquitted themselves most creditably.

The archbishop examined the "B" class in Latin, selecting one of the most difficult passages in Cæsar, de Bell. Gal. Lib. V. They were readily translated and correctly parsed. In the meantime the grade "C"

pupils were engaged in an interesting exercise in English literature—a subject which receives great attention in this school. Miss Devereux read an essay on Macaulay's Warren Hastings. A literary gentlemen present who heard it declared that he would at once purchase a copy of this celebrated essay and spend the evening in reading it. Miss M. Wells read an essay on the "Rise and Progress of the English Drama."

While these exercises were being conducted in the principal's room, Commissioner Cragg was presiding over an equally interesting programme in Sr. Angela's department. History, botany and word analysis took up most of the time. On the blackboard were displayed very beautiful and accurate drawings from nature of the plants which had been analyzed and fully studied by the pupils. They were examined in this subject by Dr. MacKay—himself one of the most accomplished botanists. The *Sarracenia purpurea* and the *Fragaria Virginiana* were made to reveal the marvels of their construction with the same relentless accuracy that characterized the analysis of the geometrical propositions.

The examinations having been concluded, the gold medals were presented by the archbishop. \* \* \* His grace congratulated the young ladies on the thoroughness of their educational work. He pointed out the value of good literature in the formation of character, and commended the young ladies for their resolve to continue their studies in this department during the summer vacation. He pointed out the natural beauties of Halifax, which made it unnecessary for them to go abroad for recreation. At Point Pleasant park they could combine their literary and nature studies—enjoying the most healthful sea-breezes and the most charming scenery to be found anywhere. It would be delightful to have a class characterized by so much ability, return to its school work after holidays with unbroken ranks.

Dr. MacKay commended the methods of study pursued—drawing and plant analysis in botany, dissections in physiology, experiments in physics and chemistry—in short object teaching wherever applicable, and accuracy and clearness in everything. He had not seen better teaching anywhere.

Commissioner Cragg emphasized his commendatory remarks by offering a gold medal for next year. \* \* \* St. Patrick's Boys' High School was examined in the afternoon in presence of Commissioners Doyle (presiding), Bremner and Wier, the archbishop, R. J. Wilson and others. The class included several grades, and considering the ages of the boys, their proficiency, clearness of comprehension and practical knowledge, were very gratifying.—*Halifax Chronicle*.