

Days of issue, Mondays and Fridays, 6 to 8 p. m., Saturdays 3 to 4 p. m. Average issues—on Mondays and Fridays each 91, Saturdays 33. Total weekly issues, 215. Increase of weekly issues over 1861, 115 per cent. Total volumes issued in 1862, 22,360.

Of the works issued the percentage of subjects is as follows:—

	1861.	1862.		1861.	1862.
Biography	10	12	Philosophy & Science.	12	12
Novels	5	3½	Poetry	4	3
Narratives	8	7	Natural history	2	1½
History	5	6½	Tales and Stories	47	45
Travels	4	5	Literary Essays	3	4½

The borrowers in 1861 were—Youths, 45, adults, 55. In 1862 youths 49, adults 51. Volumes in library in 1861, 1,830; in 1862, 2,134.

Mr. Paton presented a report from the Library Committee, recommending that Certificates of Honour be awarded to pupils under the following regulations:—

I. That Certificates of Honor be awarded annually at the examination, immediately before the summer vacation, to such pupils as shall be presented by their respective teachers, and approved by the Local Superintendent, for having excelled in regularity and punctuality of attendance during the year, combined with the absence of any infraction of the printed rules and regulations of the schools.

II. That these Certificates be conferred by the Chairman of each school visiting Committee in presence of the whole school, and that the names of the pupils so distinguished be published.

III. That these Certificates be granted to those pupils only who have not been once absent or late during the year, unless such absence, to the extent of ten minutes, shall have been occasioned by sickness or other unavoidable cause, to be certified in writing by the pupil's parent or guardian, and approved by the Chairman of the school committee.

IV. That a copy of the regulations under which the Certificates of Honor are granted be hung up in each school room, and read once a month to the whole pupils.

7. SUNNIDALE SCHOOL LIBRARY.

A correspondent writes as follows:—The books have arrived in good order, and great satisfaction is expressed by parties who have examined the selection of books made by the Department.

IV. Papers on Natural History.

1. DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS.

What can be done to stop the madness of destroying birds?
* * * In the early spring boys were birdnesting all over the country. In a multitude of townships there is a standing offer of rewards for birds' eggs; and thousands of dozens have this spring been paid for within an area of two or three parishes. Where no such inducement exists there has been the same plunder; and long rows of speckled eggs are hung in cottage windows, and over the fire places, under the approving eye of the farmer, if not of the curate and the squire. As the season advanced, and the bloom of our fruit trees afforded as fine a promise of fruit as ever was seen in this country, the war against them became very animated. They were accused of having sometimes, after very severe winters, eaten out the heart of fruit buds; and if they were left alive, they would eat the juicy shoots of young peas, and hereafter some of the peas themselves, and cherries and black currants; so not only have the guns been heard popping in many country parishes, but men have shewn themselves in markets and fairs, all hung over with strings of dead finches, and robins, and thrushes, and sparrows, as an advertisement in their line of business. Members of sparrow clubs have met and awarded prizes, and dined, and drunk destruction to the order of birds. One prize winner, the other day, boasted of having killed 1,860 sparrows in the course of the year. A lady, meantime, had at one stroke killed, with strychnine, 800 small birds in her own garden; and if one owner of a garden has done such a thing, how many more may have lessened the number of our winged friends? The discovery of the efficacy of poisoned grain in killing off the birds has wrought prodigiously. One rookery after another has gone to destruction—the birds dropping in their flight, and lying dead all over the lawns and fields, while their young are starving in the nests. There has been silence in many lanes and copses formerly all alive with songsters; and travelled men have observed, in some part of the country, that it was becoming almost like France for the scarcity of birds.

This is a part of the picture of this year; but it is not the whole.

In the same districts there are now scores of old women and boys employed in trying to save the fruit from the caterpillars. There are more weeds than ever in the fields and gardens, because the weeds never were so rampant. While there is all this picking of grubs and caterpillars, and rooting up of weeds the country gentlemen and ladies are declaring that they must give up gardening, on account of the overwhelming increase of the wireworm and other vermin.

The mice devoured the bulbs, so as to entirely spoil their spring show of flowers; and now, between the wireworm, aphides, grubs, caterpillars, and the prospects of wasps, there is little encouragement to gardeners. There never was anything like that plague of insects in former years. The farmer smiles grimly at these distresses of the gentry, for what are they compared with his? If they would look at the whiteworm and the wireworm, and the fly (as it will be presently) in his fields, they would be ashamed of complaining of injury to mere flowers and fruit. His prospects are too like that of the French farmers when the practice of killing off birds brought three bad harvests in succession (1853-56). In one of those years the wireworm destroyed, in one department alone, £160,000 worth of corn, and at that rate we shall have to pay, very soon, if we allow ignorant men, and ladies, and boys to destroy the natural check upon insect ravages.

Most of the birds that we are hunting out of life eat both insects and grain; and some take to fruit; but their attacks upon the fruit are more useful in destroying the insects that were there already than mischievous for their own sakes. These birds eat more seeds of weeds than of corn so that we have a plague of weeds as well as insects when the birds are destroyed.—*London News*.

2. WANT OF SMALL BIRDS.

The want of small birds is felt in England as well as elsewhere, caused by a wanton and wicked destruction of them. The following is a letter which appeared in a late number of the *London Times*:—
“The spring proves the importance of the question whether our small birds shall be preserved or exterminated. This year the caterpillars were never known to be more numerous or more voracious. In many districts the small fruit is almost destroyed by them; and gardeners are forced to employ boys to pick them from the trees. This, of course, cannot be so well done as by nature's scavengers—the birds. But they were never so scarce. In my own garden I have none; and the apple trees are covered with worms of two or three kinds, which have destroyed most of the buds and the young fruit. The effect of the universal tendency to destroy the small birds will be yearly more disastrous, unless active measures are taken to check the evil. At present these useful—nay, indispensable—creatures, are at the mercy of the half-educated; men shoot them, entrap them, and poison them; boys are allowed by their parents to rob their nests, and thus destroy what, in the great scheme of nature, is of more value than themselves. In my own neighbourhood, where, as I have observed, insects of the most pernicious kinds were never more abundant, a lady has, this spring, poisoned with strychnine, at one dressing of her grounds or gardens, no less than 800 birds of various kinds, and she was a few days since preparing for a second battue. To counteract this senseless and barbarous destruction of our best friends, by man, woman, and child, I look to the schoolmaster and to the clergy, who, as yet, seem not to have been fully convinced of the importance of the subject.”

3. PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS.

The Hon. Mr. Portman, last session, introduced a bill into the Lower House for “the protection of wild birds.” The following are its clauses:—

“No wild birds of any description, except such as are enumerated in chapter twenty-eight of the Consolidated Statutes for Lower Canada, and twenty-third Victoria, chapter fifty-five, of the Statutes of Canada, of birds of prey, shall be shot, hunted, trapped, killed, sold, offered for sale, or had in possession under any pretence whatever, unless it be for the use of any incorporated museum, association, or university, or as live singing birds, the proof whereof to be the party charged.

“No eggs of any wild birds shall be taken or destroyed, except for the purposes of natural history.

“Any offence against any provision of this act shall be punished, on conviction before a Justice of the Peace, by a fine not exceeding twenty dollars nor less than one dollar, in the discretion of such Justice, with costs; or, in default of payment, by imprisonment not exceeding one month; one-half of such fine to go to the Crown, and one-half to the informer.

“This act shall not apply to Indians.”