

central school system has been worked advantageously in Hamilton, London, Paris and other places, and we regard the experiment here as successful. A splendid edifice for school purposes adorns our Town, a large staff of Teachers may be found daily employed; let all parties, then, exert themselves to increase the efficiency of the Victoria School."

— **BARRIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.**—We acknowledge with thanks, from the Head Master of the School, (Rev. W. F. Checkley, A. B.) a copy of the Barrie Grammar School Examination papers for 1859, from the character of these papers it is evident that the recent prize and scholarship examination in the school have been most trying and difficult. The Head Master deserves very great credit for his zeal and enterprise, and for the ability with which he conducts the School; in addition to the County Scholarship, which he has established, he has also given, at his own cost, three Gold Medals, (the only ones given in any Grammar School in Upper Canada) for "Classics," "Modern Languages," and "Mathematics," besides a Special Prize for "Natural Sciences," in addition to the usual prizes in books. In the introductory note to the pamphlet sent us, it is stated:—"The Head Master has already, at his own expense, established one County Scholarship, entitling to free board and education at the Grammar School, for one year, that boy who shall pass the best examination from among the pupils of the Common Schools of this County. The Trustees are quite of his opinion, that the Senior Grammar School in each County should be to the Common Schools of that County that which the University is to the Grammar Schools of the Province; and they have, therefore, presented a petition to the County Council, praying that two similar scholarships may be established, to be competed for in the same way. They believe that the greatest good to the country will be the result of such a step, and they sincerely trust that no mistaken economy may prevent the Council from acceding to their request." The *Barrie Advance* adds:—"We are glad to be able to state that the County Council have given a grant of \$700 for the enlargement of the present school-house, which will enable the Trustees to make it a much more convenient building than it is at present. We hope, however, that the money will be expended solely in enlarging the building, and not in any ornamental or too substantial work; for, so soon as the County can afford it we shall evidently want a new school-house altogether."

— **SIMCOE COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS.**—In a recent letter from the Head Master of this School (Rev. J. G. Mullholland, M. A.) he says:—"I have proposed and intend to carry out my plan to give free education to seven boys well recommended, one from each township. If I succeed in this I trust the Township Court will liberally respond and enable those boys to prosecute their studies further in the University, I have called them scholarships, open to competition on the opening of next term."

— **HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF TORONTO.**—The Board of School Trustees in this city have lately published a pamphlet, entitled, "Report of the Past History and Present Condition of the Common or Public Schools of the City of Toronto." The aim of the Board, in taking this step, was to "satisfy the rate-payers that the School Assessment has been advantageously expended, and to induce a larger interest in the school affairs." The point of most immediate interest is the present condition and prospect of the Common Schools. It is reported that "nearly all the children who attend the city schools come from the industrial classes," and that, consequently, the system of instruction is adapted to them in particular. It is also reported, that although for a long time the question of school attendance has occupied the anxious attention of the Board of Trustees, "the number of pupils regularly attending the City Public Schools does not bear that proportion to the number of children of school age in the city that it ought to do; while those whose names are registered as pupils are neither so regular nor so punctual in their attendance as is desirable." (This report was signed in May last.) It is reported that the expense for each child in 1858 was \$12—amounting to \$25,000 for the whole. The attendance fluctuates from 700 pupils to 2,444—while as many as 4,742 were on the School Registers in the course of last year. Nearly 1000 were present at school "only from 20 to 50 days out of the whole year." The average attendance was 2,622, of whom at least one-fourth were absent every day—(p. 77.) The cost thus amounted to \$12.58 per child in actual attendance at any given period, and \$9.60 per child in attendance some time in the year. The Board seem to be approaching the plan of "compulsory attendance," by means of a "truant officer" for each district, who shall spend his whole time, during school-hours, in traversing streets, lanes, alleys, and other places, in search of absentees from school, and when he cannot otherwise get them to school, he can have them sent to some "reformatory institution" for a year or two, or to "the State Reform School" for

the whole of their minority. They declare that "voluntary attendance falls short of accomplishing the requirements of the Free School principle." — *Colonist.*

— **UPPER CANADA MODEL SCHOOLS EXAMINATION.**—The half-yearly examinations of the pupils in the Model Schools in Toronto, were held on the 25th June. Her Excellency Lady Head and a large number of visitors were present during the day. The examinations in the several divisions were conducted by the teachers, and, judging from the readiness and correctness of the pupils' answers, the proficiency appears most satisfactory. Miss Clark, Miss Shenich and Mrs. Clark severally preside over the three divisions of the girls' school. Their pupils were examined during the day in arithmetic, geography, history (English and Canadian,) physiology, &c. In the boys' school, conducted by Mr. Dishar, Mr. Morris and Mr. Carlyle, examinations were held in similar branches. There were about 150 boys and 150 girls present—being about the average daily attendance at the schools. At the close of their examinations yesterday, the girls sang "Rule Britannia," and "See the Conquering Hero Comes," and other songs in a very creditable style. Mr. Sefton led the girls in their musical exercises. Between three and four o'clock, p. m., gymnastic exercises were gone through by the boys in the play ground attached to the institution. These exercises were conducted by Captain Goodwin, through whose excellent training the pupils appear to be progressing rapidly. A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present and seemed greatly pleased with the performances of the juvenile gymnasts. Some of the feats performed by the youngsters were of a very daring character, and elicited a good deal of applause. The pupils and visitors subsequently adjourned to the theatre of the Institute, where the former were addressed by Rev. Mr. Ormiston, and Rev. Dr. Ryerson. The latter distributed prizes to the most deserving pupils.—*Leader.*

— **COMPETITION OF SCHOOLS, COUNTY OF HASTINGS.**—We have great pleasure in inserting the following notice from the *Belleville Intelligencer*, which is signed by George Mowat, Esq., the Local Superintendent of Schools for the North Riding of Hastings. The plan proposed was adopted some years ago in the County of Waterloo, and gave a strong impetus to education in the County, besides diffusing a spirit of emulation among the teachers:—"The Local Superintendent of Schools for the North Riding of the County of Hastings, begs to notify Teachers and Trustees throughout the Riding, that a general examination and competition for prizes, will be held in the Village of Hastings, on Friday, the 23rd day of September next, at the hour of ten o'clock, a. m. Prizes will be offered in all the branches required to be taught in Common Schools, and in order that the competition may be as general as possible, it is intended that only two pupils from each class in the several schools will be admitted to compete. The selection of candidates for examination from each school to be made by the Teacher. Not more than one prize will be given to any one scholar, but in the event of excellence in more than one class, honorable mention will be made of the successful competitor, and the next best shall be entitled to the prize. Some of the Township Municipalities have already contributed liberally towards the funds for the purchase of prizes, and the Superintendent has every reason to suppose that the remaining Municipalities will also contribute their proportion, in order to entitle the schools in their respective Townships to engage in the competition. This being the first general examination in the North Riding, the Superintendent finds it necessary to invest all available funds in the purchase of prizes; it is therefore advisable that visitors and pupils from each school section should bring their own refreshments. A Committee of gentlemen in Madoc have kindly consented to make arrangements for invited guests from a distance; they will also provide accommodations for the pupils and their friends. It is expected that many distinguished friends of education will be present, and deliver addresses appropriate to the occasion. Examiners from other Districts will be selected, and every precaution taken to ensure impartial decisions. The cordial co-operation of all teachers and friends of education is earnestly invited, the object being, by means of honorable competition, to awaken a more lively interest in education, and promote the cause throughout the Riding."

## UNITED STATES.

— **WISCONSIN SCHOOL FUND.**—Wisconsin has set apart the avails of swamp lands as a fund for normal instruction. The income of this fund is over \$18,000. It will soon reach \$25,000, and is to be expended under the direction of Hon. Henry Barnard, LL.D., recently of Connecticut, and now Chancellor of the Wisconsin State University.