

cial position of the teacher is, therefore, worse than it was five years ago.

We would suggest that in future Reports the statistics of the Public and Separate Schools be given separately, so that we may ascertain more accurately what is the condition of the former.

What has the Report to show for the increase of six per cent. in the expenditure of 1882? We fear that this increase, being largely represented in buildings and apparatus, must be regarded as bread cast upon the waters, which will return to us after many days. Certainly the statistics of the present Report do not show any return for it. The registered attendance is less; the average attendance is the same; a large number of scholars are reported as not fulfilling the requirements of the law in regard to minimum attendance; teachers' salaries have not increased, and the numbers in the higher classes have diminished. It is as well to keep these facts before us lest we should be disposed to rest and be thankful.

#### STATISTICS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGIATE INSTITUTES.

The total receipts were \$373,150, increase, \$1,900; expenditure, \$343,720, decrease, \$2,129. The total number of pupils registered was 12,473, a decrease of 663; the average attendance for the whole year was 6,580. The percentage of average attendance for High Schools, Collegiate Institutes, and the whole Province, was fifty-three; this shows a falling off for the Province of three per cent. The cost per pupil in registered attendance was \$27.56; in average attendance it was \$52.24. In thirty-seven schools fees were charged varying from 50cts. to \$16 per term; the remaining sixty-seven were free. We have never heard it satisfactorily explained why a fee should not be charged in every High School and Collegiate Institute in the Province to lighten the burden of their support upon the municipalities and the legislature. There are fifty-one union schools. The average salary of the 332 teachers employed was \$765; this is \$8 less than that for the previous year. The salaries of headmasters range from \$700 to \$2,250, the

average being \$1,034; by a little reckoning we find that the average salary of the assistant teachers was \$641. Two per cent. of the scholars matriculated, six per cent. joined the learned professions, seven per cent. entered mercantile life, five per cent. took up agriculture, and eleven per cent. left for other occupations. Taking these figures as our guide, we may say that one-fourth of the scholars attending these schools require a classical education, while the occupations to which the remaining three-fourths go demand a business education. These considerations should have weight in regulating the studies to be pursued in the secondary schools.

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THE DOMINION ANNUAL REGISTER FOR 1883. Edited by Henry J. Morgan. Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co. [pp. 505; price \$3.00.]

THIS valuable publication, now in its fifth year, is too well known to require any further praise. It contains amongst other information of public interest an excellent review of literature, science and art, by Mr. Chas. G. D. Roberts, the well known poet of New Brunswick, and a no less admirable account of the progress of education in the Dominion by Mr. W. H. Fraser, M.A, now of Upper Canada College. Every school library should have a complete set of the Annual Register.

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MODERN FRENCH READINGS, by William J. Knapp, Street Professor of Modern Languages in Yale College. Boston: Ginn, Heath & Co. 1884.

To those who are acquainted with the "Spanish Readings" edited by Prof. Knapp, and already noticed in these columns, the plan of the present work will be familiar. It is held by the compiler, and rightly too, that to know the language the learner must have mastered modern French. In fact so enormous has been the development since the days of Boileau and Bossuet, that it is hardly doubtful that these writers would find nineteenth century French incomprehensible. How much more is it an unknown tongue to a student whose knowledge does not extend