

In that old School Room was taught subjects preparatory to University Studies,—chiefly Latin, Greek, and French, together with the higher branches of English. Mathematics and Science had not their present-day values. And a man thoroughly trained in the Classics was considered well-educated.

A Picture of the early School Room would be considered unique. The young men, for they were nearly all grown to manhood, sat in their places at long desks that faced the Wall. The centre of the School Room was vacant and the Master, walking up and down in the open space, watched the work of his Pupils. Each Pupil as he was able, construed his set portion of Latin, or Greek, and turned to the preparation of a new Lesson.

The School was brought to its present high position not without some difficulties. It is due to the integrity of early School Boards and to the interest of the Townspeople, and those of the surrounding Country; that this Institution has been able to maintain its position in Academic Life, and to send out well-equipped Scholars. It is said that no life is without difficulties. The days are not always bright nor the sun forever shining. And yet we live and are happy, and love old Mother Earth. We delight in the freshness of Spring, and the purity of Winter. So with the life of the School. As the difficulties came they were hard to meet and to conquer, but life went on as before, and we of the present day in Vienna did and do our best for the welfare of our High School.

It would be of much interest had we a complete List of the early Masters and Students of our School. Mr. Newcombe came first as Master, and, when the Two-Master System was introduced, the Teachers were Mr. Bigg and Mr. Cook. Among other Teachers came Mr. Baker, now Professor Baker of Toronto University, Author of the present Text-Books on Geometry.

But, turning from the Masters to the Vienna High School itself. In 1849 an agitation was set on foot to build a much-needed School Room for the Grammar School Pupils. In 1850, the Building was completed and the Grammar School became one of the recognized Institutions of the County of Middlesex, and later, of Elgin. In the new Building, the principal Lessons continued to be those in the Classics. An accession in the number of Pupils marked the change in the Buildings; and a further and most noteworthy change in the School life made itself felt. In 1850, young women were admitted to full Studentship, and were allowed to do the same work as their Brothers.

As yet, one Teacher had full charge of the School, and since he had about fifty Pupils, he found his time very fully employed.

In the year 1860 a second Teacher was employed, and Mathematics and the Higher Branches, together with Astronomy, and Natural Philosophy, were added to the Curriculum. The School continued to be well attended and to be very successful in its work.

In 1862 the School Building was considered unsuited for its purpose, and the result was that the present School House was erected at a cost of \$2,550.

Some years ago a Laboratory was built; and the School is now well equipped for Science Work.

Latterly, the changes have not been so marked, yet Vienna High School has continued to do good work. The following is an extract from the Visitors' Book of the School:

"The undersigned have visited all the Rooms in this School, and found them in good working order, to our entire satisfaction." Signed—H. Weinhold, John Burgess, Charles P. Chute, George Thornton.