

economy, which somewhat crippled their movements. The schools at present were not sufficiently furnished, and the staff needed to be increased and also the salaries. In some instances the teachers were called upon to do the work of two, and he regretted to say the health of many had consequently been failing of late. He spoke in the highest praise of the untiring energy, patience, and professional abilities of Mr. Robins, and also that of his subordinates, and urged all friends of education to visit schools and see his admirable mode of both teaching and examining at the same time.

Mr. F. KAY referred to the excellent results of the system as practised by the Board, and regretted that it was not in their power to afford accommodation to all who applied. In conclusion he urged the need of pecuniary assistance.

Rev. Dr. JENKINS, chairman of the Board, in answer to Dr. MacVicar, said that a site had been chosen for a girls High School, and he trusted the building would soon be erected. He adverted to the fact that the Commissioners had laboured arduously and in silence, amid some misrepresentations, for the advancement of education in this city, and that not unsuccessfully. They did not desire office, and were willing to resign if need be, to give place to others; but he continued, the difficulties with which the present Board had to contend would never occur again. He wished the grumblers had been present that morning to witness the examination. It was easy to criticise without investigation, the conduct of those who laboured day and night without reward for the welfare of the public. He deeply regretted that the health of so many of the teachers had declined. He felt that the citizens were not doing justice to the teachers, who were so successfully training the future population. In speaking of the advantages enjoyed by the scholars, he adverted with pride to the fact that there was not now a respectable and capable boy in Montreal who could not go through the University of this city without fee or charge, and that soon the girls would possess the same advantage. The interesting proceedings were brought to a close by singing the National Anthem, and the audience dispersed at a quarter to two.

ST. MATTHEW'S AND GRACE CHURCH SCHOOLS.

The examinations of the St. Matthews and Grace Church Schools, at Point St. Charles, were held on the 22nd December. They collectively have an attendance of 250 pupils, employing five teachers. At present there are one first intermediate and no senior classes in these schools. The examinations were very ably conducted, and reflected very creditably upon Professor Robins, the masters and teachers. The specimens of writing exhibited were very fair, and in some cases excellent, while that written from dictation, fully sustained the evidence of the written specimens. A very interesting examination of the school under the auspices of the St. George's Y. M. C. A., of which Miss Wales is the Governess, has just been concluded. The Protestant Public Schools, which closed yesterday, will reopen on January 5 at 10 a. m.

The seven Laws of Teaching.

BY REV. J. M. GREGORY, LL. D.

1. A teacher must know thoroughly what he would teach.
2. A learner must attend with interest to what he would learn.

3. The medium must be language understood by both teacher and pupil in the same sense.

4. The truth to be taught must be related to truth already known, as we can only reach the unknown through that which is known.

5. The act of teaching is the act of arousing and guiding the self-activities of another mind so as to develop in it a certain thought or feeling.

6. The act of learning is the act of reproducing, fully and accurately in our own understanding, the ideas to be acquired.

7. The test and confirmation of teaching are to be found in repetitions and reviews.

These simple and fundamental principles may be better understood if stated as rules to be observed by the teacher, thus:

I. Know thoroughly and familiarly whatever you would teach.

II. Gain and keep the attention of your pupils, and excite their interest in the subject.

III. Use language which your pupils fully understand, and clearly explain every new word required.

IV. Begin with what is already known, and proceed to the unknown by easy and natural steps.

V. Excite the self-activities of the pupils, and lead them to discover the truth for themselves.

VI. Require pupils to restate, fully and correctly, in their own language, and with their own proofs and illustrations, the truth taught them.

VII. Review, review, review, carefully, thoroughly, repeatedly, with fresh consideration and thought.

These laws underlie and control all successful teaching. Nothing need be added to them; nothing can be safely taken away. No one who will thoroughly master and use them need fail as a teacher, provided he will also maintain the good order which is required to give free and undisturbed action to these laws.—S. S. Teacher.

POETRY.

The Fisherman's Summons.

(From All The Year Round.)

The sea is calling, calling,
Wife, is there a log to spare?
Fling it down on the hearth and call them in.
The boys and girls with their merry din,
I am loth to leave you all just yet,
In the light of the noise I might forget
The voice in the evening air.
The sea is calling, calling,
Along the hollow shore
I know each nook in the rocky strand,
And the crimson weeds on the golden sand,
And the worn old cliff where the sea pinks cling,
And the worn old cliff where the echoes ring,
I shall wake them never no more.

How it keeps calling, calling,
It is never a night to sail,
I saw the "sea-dog" over the height,
As I strained thro' the haze my failing sight,
And the cottage creaks and rocks well nigh,
As the old "Fox" did in the days gone by,
In the moan of the rising gale.

Yet it is calling, calling:
It is hard on a soul I say,
To go fluttering out in the cold, and the dark,
Like the birds they tell us of, from the ark,
While the foam flies thick on the bitter blast,
And the angry waves roll fierce and fast,
Where the black buoy marks the bay.