

Public Schools and College Closings.

The stand taken by the pupils of the public schools in the various college closings is especially gratifying to their friends, and should be equally convincing to their critics. In colleges and examinations for entrance into most professions, the public school comes into competition with the private, as most wealthy people choose to send their boys and girls to the latter. There is this difference, however, that while the best products of the public schools may not, from various causes, reach the competing ground, the best students of private schools are the ones who are certainly to be met with as they are not necessarily hampered by lack of means. In all such competitions, whenever held, the pupils prepared in the public schools have demonstrated their ability to keep fully abreast, if not in advance of those instructed in the private. Many instances might be pointed out but it would scarcely be the place for such particulars.

This much might be said, however, that very little notice seems to be taken of these achievements of pupils of the public schools by those who are most ready to criticize them for any supposed failure. Last year's law examinations may be instanced as a case in point. The public schools were not responsible except for those who made best the show, but that did not prevent censure.

While no fault can be found with ignoring the successes of the private schools, it is only fair to expect similar mention of successful students as coming from the public schools.

The Institute at Fredericton.

The following is for the information of teachers and school officers who propose to attend the approaching meeting of the Educational Institute at Fredericton. When buying railway tickets teachers should always ask the agent for a standard certificate properly filled in and signed by him, in order that they may be able to secure their return free, or at a reduced rate. If part of the journey is by one line and part by another, be careful not to buy a through ticket if they start at the starting point on each line and use the first line's certificate at each. Apply for these certificates at good time, so that the agent will have time to fill them in before the train starts. Any railway company which issues certificates will accept them as evidence of bona fide secretary of the Institute.

The Intercolonial and most of the other railways grant a free return to members of the Institute, but the Canadian Pacific requires a full first-class ticket

going, and one third or one half of that amount for return fare. The Star Line of steamers will issue return tickets between St. John and Fredericton for one fare one way, and for whole distance and return.

On Dominion Day besides the regular sports and amusements of the day, special arrangements will be made to enable the teachers to pass the time pleasantly and profitably. Various cheap excursions have been planned for the day. In the evening a conversazione and promenade concert will be held in the Normal School building.

Examinations.

Some time since our public schools were found fault with because a number of students were badly "plucked" at a certain professional examination. The grotesque answers made by some of the students were held up to ridicule. But because a few students—and it was not known that these graduated from the public schools—made careless and ridiculous blunders, it was certainly unwise to condemn the schools or the teachers of these young men.

It is a case of women, perhaps disgust, sometimes to an examiner to read the answers to papers by students whose wits for the time have evidently gone a wool gathering. Here is a case in point. A student of German history, who had been under a clever and skillful teacher, thus grappled with the problem: "Write a brief note on Delphi." The answer was, "Delphi was a philosopher who lived in the early part of the nineteenth century." Can such an answer admit of explanation other than carelessness or stupidity on the part of the pupil? A German pedagogue placed on the title of a school book he had written the motto: "It is not possible to overestimate the stupidity of your pupils." At the 20 most pupils would protest against this, there is reason in it, and the teacher might apply it to himself in this wise. It is not possible to make the work too plain for pupils.

But another view may be taken of some answers to examinations, questions, and the remarks thereon of William Hawley Smith, author of the "Evolution of Drama," as at testing.

Some of the errors that the children made were as follows:—"Alps, yes, a system of mountains."—"Con- siderable to a mountain."—"I agree, a man who likes a good dinner."—"The leopard is watching his sheep."—"The strawberry crop was magnanimous."—"Ben Johnson is a good Shakespeare in some respects."—"An interval of time is the distance on the keyboard, from the piano to the next."—"Elocution is opening the mouth wide."—"The theory that intuitive truths are