

the beneficial influence which awards of this nature must exert over the schools of the province, which are now, by the wisdom of the legislature, placed in a position from which, it is hoped, they will never be permitted to recede.

P. J. FILLIUI, *Inspector.*

**Queens Co. competition.**—Our County Competition took place as prescribed. The very general conviction that it was not instituted on an equitable basis—peculiar, perhaps, to this County—divested it of much of its interest and utility. Liverpool section contains about one-third of the children between five and fifteen years of age in the County. The school is graded, and the first department, of course, has the most advanced pupils, who have long enjoyed peculiar and extraordinary advantages. Under such circumstances there was very little to stimulate the pupils of the miscellaneous schools to engage in so unequal a contest. Several in different parts of the County, who had prepared themselves with the most commendable zeal and diligence, at last retired from entering the competition. Milton—the County Academy—from which there was no competitor, I leave to excuse its own delinquency.

In reading and recitation there were six competitors. The prize was awarded to Freddie Forbes, son of Dr. Forbes, member of the House of Commons.

In spelling there were eight competitors. During the first hour two retired. The others were then examined individually, and at the close stood, words missed, as follows,—3, 11, 12, 13, 13, 19. The prizes were awarded to Reuben Sherriffs, Bessie Mulhall and Mary Jackson.

In mental arithmetic there were five competitors. The prize was closely contested. It was won by George Lightizer.

In English history there were only three competitors. The first hour none retired. In the second, one; the prize was finally awarded to Miss Salomne Freeman.

The proficiency of nearly all the competitors was most remarkable; and it was with great pleasure that I awarded to them all a prize better than books, rather to be chosen than great riches,—the honor of a good name. The County prizes were all awarded to pupils of Mr. T. R. Patillo's department of the Liverpool section. Miss Alice Minard from Harmony, North Queens, a competitor both in reading and spelling, maintained her standing so honorably, that on my own account I publicly presented her with Dr. Forrester's Teachers' Text-book.

D. O. PARKER, *Inspector.*

**Shelburne Co. competition.**—On the 13th inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M., notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather and the badness of the roads, a large number of persons of both sexes assembled in the Shelburne Academy, to witness the competition of the pupils of the county, for prizes. The Revs. Dr. White, G. M. Clarke, R. D. Porter, and T. W. Smith, assisted as judges. R. G. Irvin, Esq., as Secretary, and Messrs. R. W. Ellis, A. C. A. Doane, and J. H. Munro, assisted in reading, questions, &c. There were in all branches 20 competitors, of whom 7 belonged to Shelburne, 5 were from Locke's Island, 4 from Barrington Passage, and 4 from Hibbert's Brook, Section B, Barrington. After prayer by Dr. White, 13 came forward as competitors in reading and recitation. Having gone through with their selections,—all of which were rendered in a very creditable manner,—the judges retired to compare notes; upon which it was found that five were so nearly equal as to necessitate a further test. Brief selections were then made by the judges. These the five competitors were permitted to examine for five minutes, after which they were conducted to a separate apartment. They were then brought individually before the audience and examined upon the selections, when the judges unanimously agreed to award the prize to Miss Crissie Bell, of Shelburne Academy.

A class of 10 next came forward as competitors in British history. After continuing the examination for more than an hour, during which all the pupils acquitted themselves nobly, the judges retired to compare notes, upon which it was found that five were free from failures. Upon continuing the examination with these, one after another was obliged to retire from the contest, until Master J. G. Allen, of Locke's Island, was left the undisputed victor.

Next came 7 as competitors in mental arithmetic. After a brief contest in the fundamental rules and reduction, the prize was awarded to Master Edwin Crowell, of Barrington Passage.

Now came the last and most stubborn contest of all, viz., that for the prizes in spelling. Thirteen entered the competition in this branch. After the spelling of several hundreds of words within the prescribed limits, the class remained nearly the same as at first. Other and more difficult words were then given, and finally each individual was tested separately upon the few words which had been misspelled and passed over. Still eight remained, and there were but six prizes; upon which A. McNaughton, Esq., suggested that as they had done so well, two additional prizes should be guaranteed and the contest terminated. Acting upon this suggestion, a number of gentlemen readily subscribed the amount required (\$14.00) and the eight were pronounced victorious. Their names, &c., will be found in the subjoined table.

Some of the pupils who came from a distance, evidently labored under a great disadvantage. After spending a restless night, and then travelling upwards of 20 miles through the mud and rain, they

could hardly be expected in a strange place, and amongst entire strangers, to compete successfully with the pupils of the Academy, who were at home and refreshed. This fact accounted for the failure of Mr. A. C. Doane's pupils (four of whom were present) to obtain any of the prizes. Mr. D.'s school, taught in Hibbert's Brook section, Barrington, is not inferior to any in the county; and his pupils, in point of scholarship, will compare favorably with any within my jurisdiction.

I beg leave here to suggest that such competitions might be more satisfactory to all concerned, if confined to districts. While they embrace counties, and are held in the county towns, the pupils of the academies evidently possess great advantages over those living in remote sections.

In the following table are given the names of successful competitors, the sections to which they belong, the names of their teachers, the number of prizes won by each, and the branches in which they excelled:—

Names of Pupils.	Section.	Teacher.	Prizes.	Branches.
Miss Crissie Bell,	Shelburne,	Mr. R. W. Ellis,	2	Reading and Spelling.
Ella Fraser,	"	"	1	Spelling.
Fanny Locke,	"	"	1	"
Anne Barclay,	"	"	1	"
Jane Ringer,	Locke's Island,	Mr. A. H. Fisk,	1	"
Josephine Allen,	"	"	1	"
Margt. McDonald,	"	"	1	"
Master J. G. Allen,	"	"	1	Brit's History
Edwin Crowell,	Barrington Passage,	J. H. Munro,	2	M. Arithmetic and Spelling.

W. H. RICHAN, *Inspector.*

**Colchester Co.**—During the month of February I visited the schools in the following sections:—Upper Waugh River, West New Annan, Byers' Mills, A. McKay's Mills, G. Sutherland's, Earleton Village, Princeport, Clifton, Green's Creek, No. 1, Green's Creek, No. 2, Lower Stewiacke. (West), Eastville, Pembroke, Cross Roads, Upper Stewiacke Village, Newton Mills, South Branch, Otter Brook, Smithfield, Middle Stewiacke, Middle Stewiacke, (South), Lower Stewiacke, (East), Gay's River, Alma, Fort Ellis, and Forest Glen. Since my last visit the school-house of McKay's Mills section has been considerably improved. Earleton Village house, which will be, when completed, a fine building, has been getting along slowly. Clifton school-house has been well seated. The school-house at Green's Creek, (No. 2) has also been well furnished with seats, apparatus and books. The school-house in Smithfield section has been finished inside and furnished; and that in Fort Ellis section has been somewhat improved. The house in Alma section (new) has been built, finished and furnished since last May in a manner most creditable to the inhabitants, who are mostly new settlers and in very moderate circumstances. The new house in Lower Stewiacke East section, replacing the building accidentally burned last winter, is a very fine building, of ample size, thoroughly finished and furnished in a superior manner. This section has always been considered by me one of the most progressive and spirited in the County. It has been compelled to meet disappointment and misfortune in many forms, but present prospects are most encouraging. Those who persevere patiently in well-doing will finally secure a reward.

A contrast of the present condition of most of the sections visited with their state four years ago, might be interesting and exceedingly instructive. It is true that the present advantageous stand point has not been reached without a large expenditure of time, care, industry and pecuniary means; but no reasonable lover of his country or his race would barter present privileges and prospects for all that he has expended in this good work. The people have sown in faith, and now begin to reap a rich harvest.

I am sorry to report that the *Journal* is not regularly received in some sections, more sorry that many teachers are careless about getting and reading it. During the month I have found teachers who knew little or nothing of the prize competition upon the 13th March. I have again to note the superiority of attendance over that in former winters.

H. C. UPHAM, *Inspector.*

**King's Co.**—During the month of February I was able to make but few official visits, domestic circumstances preventing my absence from home. You will, however, be pleased to learn that there are more schools in operation this term than ever before in the winter. The numbers for the three past, as compared with the present winter, are, 45, 49, 64, and 71. There are also 8 assistants. Never before have there been more than 3. The attendance is also more regular, and the registers show, in general, much higher numbers than heretofore.

These are not the only gratifying circumstances in connexion with the schools. In the method of presenting instruction, as well as in the quality of instruction presented, there is gradual but decided progress.

The trustees also very generally show commendable zeal in the performance of their duties. Even the opposition which in some communities is presented, tends to a stricter supervision of school matters, thereby influencing for good the school itself.

The coming examination will, I trust, be so well attended as to enable trustees in future to obtain suitable teachers,—there being now 4 or 5 sections without schools, just because male teachers could not be obtained.

WILLIAM EATON, *Inspector.*