

## COUNTY SCHOOL CONVENTIONS—AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION.

We are happy to hear of the success and even enthusiasm which attends the County School Conventions, now being held in different parts of Upper Canada, by the Chief Superintendent of Schools. The following admirable suggestion, contained in a letter from "A Local Superintendent," to the Editor of the *Western Progress* of the 27th ultimo, if acted upon in each place, yet to be visited, will greatly contribute to promote the important objects contemplated by this official visit of the Chief Superintendent to the different Counties. A "Local Superintendent" observes that "as the time which the Chief Superintendent can spare with us is very limited, and must needs be husbanded to the best advantage, it is proposed that all persons having questions or suggestions to submit, shall meet at the Court House, on the day of visit, at ten o'clock, A.M., to compare notes with each other, to condense, as much as possible, the business of the day, by suppressing duplicates, and, generally, aiming to abridge the proceedings."

We hope that the Local Superintendents, generally, will endeavour to publish the notice of the Chief Superintendent's visit to their County, as widely as possible, and that the Local Superintendents, at or near the town in which the County School Convention is advertised to be held, will make the necessary arrangements as to the place of holding the Convention, and to give public notice of the same, and otherwise facilitate the objects which the Chief Superintendent has in view. The County Conventions yet to be held are as follows:—

COUNTIES.	TOWNS.	DAYS.	DATES.
York and Peel.....	Toronto.....	Wednesday..	Feb. 16.
Simcoe.....	Barrie.....	Friday.....	" 18.
Ontario.....	Whitby.....	Wednesday..	" 23.
Northumberland and Durham..	Cobourg.....	Friday.....	" 25.
Hastings.....	Belleville.....	Saturday....	" 26.
Prince Edward.....	Picton.....	Monday.....	" 28.
Lennox and Addington.....	Kapaneew.....	Tuesday.....	Mar. 1.
Frontenac.....	Kingston.....	Wednesday..	" 2.
Leeds.....	Brockville.....	Friday.....	" 4.
Lanark and Renfrew.....	Perth.....	Saturday....	" 5.
Carleton.....	Bytown.....	Tuesday.....	" 8.
Grenville.....	Kemptville.....	Wednesday..	" 9.
Dundas.....	Matilda.....	Thursday....	" 10.
Stormont and Glengarry.....	Cornwall.....	Saturday....	" 12.
Prescott and Russell.....	L'Orignal.....	Tuesday.....	" 15.

## FREE SCHOOL ELECTIONS.

FREE SCHOOL ELECTION CONTEST IN THE TOWN OF SIMCOE, COUNTY OF NORFOLK.—*Extract of a private letter, dated Simcoe, 14th Jan. 1853.*—"A few determined opponents of the Free Schools in this town, seeing that the Board of Trustees was leaning strongly to that system, got up quite an excitement on the subject; and it was generally understood that at the annual meeting a vote of want of confidence would be passed, and that if the Trustees would all resign, men opposed to free schools would be elected by at least three to one. The Trustees accepted the challenge; and on Wednesday, after some excellent addresses from the advocates of free schools, a free school ticket was nominated, and opposed by a ticket adverse to the principle. The election continued until 4 o'clock, p.m., of Thursday (second day), and the result was that the whole free school ticket (six Trustees) was elected. Mr. William M. Wilson headed the free school ticket. Much interest was excited, and great influence used."

SCHOOL ELECTION AND SCHOOLS IN THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PARIS, COUNTY OF BRANT.—*Extract from a letter dated Paris, 12th Jan., 1853.*—"The people of Paris are at this time very much interested in the education of their children,

and have this day, by an overwhelming majority, decided to make the schools within the Corporation FREE. The proficiency that the children are making in the acquisition of knowledge is great. No pains are spared by the efficient teachers to advance them in learning. For the enlightenment of the rising generation here, the prospects are most flattering."

FREE SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY OF VICTORIA.—The Local Superintendent of this county writes as follows:—"I have much pleasure in having it in my power to state, that two-thirds of the reports of proceedings at the annual meetings for this year, as received to this date, report the *unanimous* adoption of the Free School system. Another healthy feature in the scholastic affairs of this county, is the desire to pay teachers remunerating wages in future. "Good salaries and good teachers" is fast becoming the ruling maxim of the people, and the increase of this desire during the past year is pleasing. I have no hesitation in saying, much of this is attributable to the *Journal of Education*."

From local papers we select the following items relating to some additional free school elections in various parts of Upper Canada:

The *Galt Reporter* states that at a meeting of the inhabitants of the School Section, No. 15, Ayr, on Wednesday last, it was decided by a large majority that the Free School system should be adopted.

NOBLE GENEROSITY IN THE FREE SCHOOL RATEPAYERS OF PARIS.—The *Paris Star* reports that at the annual meeting for the election of School Trustees, the question of the day was on Free Schools. After some considerable discussion, Messrs. Moore and Montgomery were re-elected upon the understanding that they would vote for free schools at the Board. During the discussion, Mr. Capron proposed that something should be done to clothe a number of poor children, to enable them to enjoy the blessings of free schools. After the school meeting had concluded, the company resolved themselves into another meeting, H. Capron, Esq., in the chair. Moved and seconded, that the secretary make out from the assessment roll, the amount each person assessed, should contribute at 1d. per pound; and that a committee should be appointed to collect such amount for the above purpose. Moved and seconded, that a committee be appointed to collect the assessment, and distribute suitable clothing among the poor children of the place. The amount that is expected to be raised by this means is about £30. The committee are actively making the collection, and the whole amount is expected to be gathered and distributed during this week. Thus the people of Paris have set an example to the whole Province—*giving all her children Free Schools*—and that none shall miss the boon, is also willing to clothe those who are unable to do so themselves. We say to every municipality in Canada, "go thou and do likewise."

The *Bathurst Courier* states that at the election of School Trustees for the town of Perth, held on Wednesday last, there was not over a dozen persons present, and the old trustees were returned without a poll. *The Free School system may now be considered as established in Perth.*

From the *Port Hope Watchman* of the 4th inst., we learn that at a recent public meeting resolutions in favor of Free Schools were passed with great enthusiasm.

The *Brockville Recorder* states that the annual public school meeting was held yesterday, but as few persons were aware of it, little or no publicity being given to it, the meeting was thinly attended. *A resolution was carried in favor of Free Schools*—although inconsistent with the present state of school accommodation.