

and Mrs. Bates. The only feature that all regretted was the absence of the winner, Mr. Grigg.

The supper given to the winner of the second prize and his year, was provided in the home and by the kindness of Dr. and Mrs. McLay. The members of the third year had a most hearty and glad time and all unite in wishing that some good fortune may land them again on such hospitable shores—long live Dr. and Mrs. McLay!

WE have been highly favored in the matter of lectures this term. Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, was with us, to lecture on Friday, Dec. 14th. The lecture was one of undoubted success. For over one hour and a half Mr. Ross delighted his audience by the masterly and eloquent way in which he dealt with his subject. He did not use a note, but from his vast fund of knowledge, provided a rich intellectual treat. He is an enthusiast upon the question on which he spoke. His subject was "The Influence of Literature in the Formation of National Character." After some preliminary remarks he took as the first and greatest factor in formation of National or individual character, from a literary standpoint, "Poetry." After pointing out that certain environment produced an effect on the physical and mental features of the individual, he proceeded to claim the same for the aggregation of individuals—the Nation. He urged with the greatest emphasis the constant reading of the poets. "Beware," said he, "of the man who has no poetry in his soul; shun him as a dangerous man; he who sees no 'Sermons in stones, books in the running brooks, and good in every thing,'"

The next feature dwelt upon as the next great formative factor, was "History." He quoted Carlyle's "History is philosophy teaching by example." He then briefly reviewed the history of the English people, the great changes in their history—constitutional, religious and social. "We Canadians," said he, "in whatever liberty we possess are indebted to the labor and travail of the British Nation."

The third argument adduced was "Biography." Mr. Ross advised the reading of biography. The lives of great men represent the high-water mark of human character; man can only rise as he measures himself alongside of these and marks his own deficiency.

The last point made was the reading of novels and newspapers. The speaker rather depreciated the wide use made of these at the present day, as the staple food for the mind. He could not place, he said, a very high estimate on the mental endowment of that young lady or gentleman who fed himself or herself mentally on such light food. He then quoted statistics showing percentage of kinds of reading matter in some of the different countries of the world and congratulated Canadians on, perchance, the lowest figures in the reading of novels and among the highest in the reading of standard works.

The meeting was opened and closed by Hon. Mr. Sutherland, who made a good, witty and pleasant chairman. The platform was crowded with the most noteworthy men of Woodstock and vicinity. A large gathering testified to the appreciation of the qualities of Mr. Ross as a lecturer, whilst the frequent applause showed the enjoyment of the eloquence that came so happily from his lips. We all trust the past lectures may be happy auguries of the ones to come next term.