

A meeting of the students attending the Toronto Normal School, was held on the 21st ult., for the purpose of organizing a Literary Society, Mr. T. Kirkland, the Science Master, being in the chair. The following officers were elected:—President, A. Hutchinson; 1st Vice-President, Miss Elliott, 2nd Vice-President, B. F. Black; Sec-Treasurer, F. Crasswell; Assistant Sec-Treasurer, Miss E. Edwards; Critics, H. F. Forrester, Miss Harris; Committee, T. W. Sloan, A. D. McConnachie, J. H. Gimby, J. R. Balfour, G. H. Thomas, Miss Barrie, Miss Killoran, Miss Eadie, Miss Gray, and Miss Grant. The society is named the "Toronto Normal School Literary Society," and will hold its meetings every Friday afternoon, commencing at four o'clock. The members hope to be able to hold some public meetings during the term.

The following petition was numerously signed by the teachers of Stormont County, at their last meeting held in Cornwall on the 7th and 8th of February:—

PETITION.

To the Hon. the Minister of Education of the Province of Ontario.

SIR.—Believing that the education of the people would in a great degree prevent the evils of intemperance, we the undersigned officers and members of the Teachers' Association of the County of Stormont, in the Province of Ontario, desire to urge the introduction of scientific temperance instruction into the public and high schools of the Province of Ontario. We would respectfully but very earnestly call your attention:—

1st. To the terrible effects caused by the excessive use of alcoholic liquors upon the health, mind and morals of large numbers of our people and to the pressure of necessity for some sure and effective remedy therefor.

2nd. That in a large majority of cases the habit of drinking is contracted by children and youth without any correct knowledge of the nature of alcoholic liquors and their effect upon the human system.

3rd. That no more efficient medium than the public school can be found for imparting this much needed knowledge to the rising generation.

We earnestly request, therefore, that you will order adequate stated instruction to be given on this subject to the pupils attending the public and high schools, with a view to their examination on the subject, for promotion.

We unite with numerous friends in congratulating our esteemed friend H. E. Kennedy, M.A., late head master, Trenton high school, on his matrimonial union with an accomplished young lady from Colborne. We wish the happy couple many years of prosperity and felicity.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Report of the Superintendent of Education for the past year shows a total registration of 98,307 pupils, being an increase over that of the preceding year of 2,395. The comparative attendance by terms is given as follows:—Winter Term, (1883) 79,091, (1882) 76,888; Summer Term, (1883) 81,863, (1882) 81,196. Considerable increases are also shown in the number of teachers and schools. The total number of teachers in service during the Winter Term, was 1,911,—703 males and 1,208 females; during the Summer Term, 2,011,—608 males and 1,403 females.

The Provincial expenditure for education was \$186,087.12. Of this sum, grants to common schools consumed \$149,761.50; Inspection \$11,450; Provincial Normal and Model School, \$6,051; County Academies, \$2,000; Special Academies, \$4,000. The remainder was distributed among various services.

The Superintendent discusses at some length, what he views as desirable readjustments of the relation of the Provincial Normal School to the other schools, and the certifications of teachers. He also repeats suggestions offered in the previous Reports touching a reconstruction of the system of Academic education.

The Inspectors' reports generally disclose progress in the work of the schools, and deal interestingly with many phases of the important question of public education.

Mr. H. S. Congdon, has been appointed Principal of the public school, Dartmouth, vice Mr. L. D. Robinson, resigned.

The annual dinner in commemoration of the George Munro benefactions to Dalhousie College took place on the 9th ult. It was largely attended by the Faculties of the various departments, and by the students almost *en masse*.

The question of admitting the children of the colored citizens to the public schools of Halifax, without any discrimination, has not yet been definitely settled by the Board of School Commissioners. That body has under consideration a proposition to provide improved accommodation for colored children in the primary grades, and to admit those of the necessary qualifications to the higher departments of all the schools, including the high school. The citizens of color, however, have by resolutions adopted at a

public meeting, expressed their determination to rest satisfied with nothing short of the sweeping away absolutely of what they regard as an unjust discrimination.

The newly established Law School of Dalhousie College, has upwards of 50 students in attendance.

GENERAL.

Dr. Arnold, writing to one of his old pupils who had commenced the work of tuition, said, "You need not think that your own reading will now have no object because you are engaged with young boys. Every improvement of your own powers and knowledge tells immediately upon them, and, indeed, I hold that a man is only fit to teach so long as he is himself learning daily."

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Education is making rapid progress in this country. For the last year an attendance of over 44,000 pupils was reported in the public schools. Buenos Ayres alone had 16,000 of these in 169 schools of three teachers each.

ENGLAND.—The University of London has taken an important step in resolving to confer a new degree, to be called the "Teachers' Diploma." It is to be under the seal of the University, and signed by the chancellor. No one will be examined, however, who has not already graduated. The examination will test the practical ability as well as the information of the candidates, and will combine a close scrutiny into the knowledge regarding the theory of the art of teaching. These diplomas will be certificates of merit of the highest order.

A translation of an address delivered to secondary school teachers in Switzerland has been circulated by the Bureau of Education to answer the question, "How to teach natural science." It urges that knowing facts is not the object of such education; in that case a supply of works of reference would be a royal road. "One gets on faster with a child by carrying it, but it is for the child's interest to teach it to run and swim by itself." A teacher, therefore (who must be laboriously grounded himself), must patiently bring all his scholars, not the most promising only, to discover and observe facts for themselves,—teach them to see. Cram is most dangerous in scientific teaching, because most easy to both of them. Books, therefore, should be little used, and nothing about an object should be taught, without such object before them. After seeing, the next lesson is describing, with the help of drawing if possible, both leading to accuracy in the use of language. Plants first, which are plentiful for experiments; then animals of different classes; later on minerals should be chosen, mechanical effects on these latter first, later on chemical. The district museum of natural history and such classes would mutually assist each other greatly; in fact neither, to be successful, would long go on without the other. But the making of collections must not become a rage with pupils.

A correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald* who has been making a tour in Norway thus writes on the subject of education:—In the Norwegian, as in all other well-ordered village communities, the schoolhouse stands next in importance to the church. It is there usually a spacious and well appointed building. Both the town and country schools have their vacation during the period of the hay harvest, the herring fishing, and the tourist. I had not, therefore, the opportunity of seeing the schoolmaster at work. Under the guidance, however, of a schoolmaster, whose home-spun suit, generally substantial aspect, and shrewd but kindly face, put me in mind of the good old-fashioned Scottish domine, I inspected the premises occupied by one of the Bergen public schools. This building was divided into a number of rooms, each fitted for the reception of not more than thirty scholars. Each scholar had his or her separate seat and desk, and more than the number of cubic feet of air required by our sanitary inspectors at home. The subdivision of the school building into small class rooms renders necessary the employment of a large staff of teachers and monitors, and is an arrangement somewhat costly, if admirable. Another admirable feature of the Bergen Public School which I inspected was its spacious gymnasium, in which each of the many classes into which the school is sub-divided was exercised three times a week. Our School Boards, it seemed to me, have something to learn from the analogous bodies in Norway in the matter of attention to the physical training and the physical health generally of their pupils. In the Board schools of Norway, in addition to the three R's, the elements of physiology and of physical science are taught, as is also one or more of the modern languages. Of these of late years English has become the favorite. It is the language most commonly taught in the primary schools. It has the foremost place