

The bright summer days are over,
 And her eye no longer sees
 The red bloom upon the clover.
 The deep green upon the trees ;
 Hushed the song of finch and robin,
 With the whistle of the quail ;
 But she hears the mellow throbbing
 Of the thunder of the flail,
 The low thunder of the flail—
 Through the amber air the throbbing
 And reverberating flail.

In the barn the stout young thresher
 Stooping stands with rolled-up sleeves,
 Beating out his golden treasure
 From the ripped and rustling sheaves :
 Oh, was ever knight in armor—
 Warrior all in shining mail—
 Half so handsome as her farmer
 As he plied the flying flail,
 As he wields the flashing flail ?—
 The bare-throated, brown young farmer,
 As he swings the sounding flail ?

All the hopes that saw the sowing,
 All the sweet desire of gain,
 All the joy that watched the growing
 And the yellowing of the grain,
 All the love that went to woo her,
 And the faith that shall not fail—
 All are speaking softly to her
 In the pulses of the flail,
 Of the palpitating flail—
 Past and Future whisper to her
 In the music of the flail.

In its crib their babe is sleeping,
 And the sunshine from the door
 All the afternoon is creeping
 Slowly round upon the floor ;
 And the shadows soon will darken,
 And the daylight soon must pale,
 When the wife no more shall hearken,
 To the tramping of the flail,
 To the dancing of the flail—
 When her heart no more shall hearken
 To the footfall of the flail.

And the babe shall grow and strengthen,
 Be a maiden, be a wife,
 While the moving shadows lengthen
 Round the dial of their life :
 Theirs the trust of friend and neighbor,
 And an age serene and hale,
 When machines shall do the labor
 Of the strong arm and the flail,
 Of the stout heart and the flail—
 Great machines perform the labor
 Of the good old-fashioned flail.

But when, blessed among women,
 And when, honored among men,
 They look round them, can the brimming
 Of their utmost wishes then
 Give them happiness completer ?
 And can ease and wealth avail
 To make any music sweeter
 Than the pounding of the flail ?
 Oh, the sounding of the flail !
 Never music can be sweeter
 Than the beating of the flail !

J. T. TROWBRIDGE,

OFFICIAL NOTICES.



Ministry of Public Instruction.

NOTICE.

We would call the attention of correspondents to the fact that all communications with this Department must be prepaid, as unpaid letters or papers will not be withdrawn from the Post Office.

Under this head we wish to notify those whom it may concern, that the postage on School reports, census, &c., is at the rate of one cent the ounce ; also that books, and manuscript intended for the press, are charged at the rate of one cent for every two ounces, provided that one end of the envelope surrounding them, or part of it be left open.

APPOINTMENTS.

Quebec, 17th September, 1874.

The Lieutenant Governor has been pleased by order in council dated the 12th of June last, and in virtue of the powers conferred on him by the 17th clause of chapter 16 of the 32nd Victoria, to appoint the Reverend Charles Bancroft, school commissioner for the Protestant Corporation of the city of Montreal.

By another order in council dated the 10th of August last, and in virtue of the powers conferred on him by the 48th and 136th clauses of chapter 15 of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments, to wit :

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

County of Chicoutimi, Notre Dame de Laterrière—Messrs. Onésime Girard and Pierre Potvin, *vice* Messrs. Jean Rivière and Joseph Dufour, going out of office.

County of Maskinongé, River du Loup, No. 1—Messrs. Louis Caron and François Xavier Lambert, *vice* Louis Caron and the Reverend Joachim Boucher, going out of office.

And by a 3rd order in council, dated the 5th of September instant :

County of Gaspé, Barre-à-Choir—Mr. Thomas Malony, *vice* Mr. Jean Baptiste Blondin, and Mr. François Lemieux, continued in office.

County of Gaspé, Saint-George de la Malbaie—Messrs. George Prevel and Aubin Tabb, continued in office.

County of Ottawa, Cantley—The Reverend Mr. Patrick R. Gay and Messrs. Michael Burke, Robert Kerr, Alexander Smith and Martin Fleming.

County of Ottawa, Hartwell—Mr. Hercule Chenier, *vice* Mr. Augustin Daoust.

County of Quebec, Tewkesbury, No. 2—Messrs. Francis Arnett, James Whelan, William Hughes, A. H. B. McKee and Patrick Devine.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

County of Bagot, Acton Vale—Mr. Thomas McFarlane, *vice* Mr. Samuel Glendinning.

SCHOOL LIMITS.

The Lieutenant Governor has been pleased by order in council of the 5th September instant, and in virtue of the powers conferred on him by the 30th clause of chapter 15 of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, to order that the limits of the school municipality of Grand River, (Notre Dame de l'Assomption, in the county of Gaspé,) be henceforth such as they are described in the sixth article of the 46th clause of Chap. 18 of the Lower Canada, namely, as follows; to wit : bounded on the north-east by the parish of Saint-Joseph du Cap Desespoir, such as erected into a municipality by decree of the twenty-fourth of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty, north-west by the waste Crown Lands, south-west by the Petit Pabos river, south-east by the Gulf of Saint-Lawrence.