

Writing—1 Perkins, mi; 2 Morgan, mi; 3 Townsend; 4 Egan; 5 Moir, max.

Good Conduct—Vennor, ming.

Punctuality—Vennor, ming; Tooke, and Johnston, mi.

After the reading of the prize list, each form approached the dais, and the President delivered to the candidates the prizes awarded them, with an appropriate remark to each happy boy.

After the distribution of prizes had been made, the Rector said he was authorized to announce that one of the Governors of the College proposed founding a gold medal for the High School Department, to be awarded to thedux or senior boy at the close of every school year, and that the first medal would be open to competition next session.

Principal Dawson gave a short explanation of the school examinations for certificates of the University, to be held on the 21st of September next, and details of which are contained in the College calendar. He said that these were open to pupils of all schools, and were intended to ascertain the nature and amount of the education they had received, and to give them, under the authority of the University, certificates accordingly. The examinations would be conducted in writing by Professors of the University. They would be of such a character as to give assurance that those who succeeded had received a good education for business pursuits. He hoped, therefore, that the certificates would be highly valued; that the desire to obtain them would induce parents to aim at a higher standard of education for their children; and that in this way the examinations might prove a useful and healthy stimulus to the schools, and serve to establish and extend the reputation of those schools really deserving of public patronage. In instituting these examinations, the University was merely following the example of the English Universities; and in the case of McGill College, its connexion with the Royal School and with two large Model Schools, gave an especial appropriateness to the movement.

Dr. Wilkes, one of the oldest friends and original promoters of the High School, being called upon, then addressed the audience in a few happy words, dwelling upon the great advantages attending the introduction of the "æsthetic" element, as he appropriately called it, into the course of the High-School—music, drawing and elocution.

After "God Save the Queen" had been sung, the meeting closed with the Benediction.

Report of the Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction for Lower Canada for 1856.

(Continued from our last.)

The three appendices referred to in the Report of the Superintendent immediately follow. The first contains all the statistical tables, the importance to Lower Canada, of which, is so well understood as to require no comment. Much praise is due to many Directors of educational institutions and to the secretary-treasurers of municipalities, for the zeal, the correctness and the neat manner in which their statements have been prepared. We regret however to be obliged to remark that these are only exceptions, and that generally, this department has much trouble in obtaining the information necessary, to submit perfect statistical statements to the public. Perhaps this duty may be arduous, but if, after reflection, the difficulties which the officers of the department have to encounter, and if, at the same time, the importance of the general information were more considered, to the salutary influence their dissemination exercise over public instruction, added to the interest which even strangers have evinced in favour of our public education, perhaps we might be induced to contribute merely by the sacrifice of a few hours in a year, to a work which we would find the more attractive in proportion as we lent our exertions, added to a just appreciation of the beneficial results to be derived. Besides this, there is another consi-

deration which has not escaped the observation of those who are interested in the progress and future of Lower-Canada. We allude to that species of public opinion, which to superior physical force and a recourse to arms, frequently decides the fate of a people: statistics contribute greatly towards the forming of this opinion, and we must admit, that its judgments have not been the most favorable or flattering. While our neighbours on all sides, have grown and are lauding themselves at our expense, without copying their magnified and exaggerated statements, we should at least use our utmost endeavors to prevent our present position from being lowered through our indifference.

The second part of the appendix contains the reports, circulars and the rules and regulations issued during the year. This collection of documents will prove very useful to school commissioners and to all who take any active part in the organisation and working of the schools. We believe that a list of these documents may be of service to our readers:

Statement shewing the distribution of the grant for superior education for the year 1856.—Statement shewing the distribution of the grant for supplementary aid to poor municipalities for the year 1856.—Circular No. 19 to the Commissioners and Trustees of dissentient schools concerning the putting in execution the recent Act of the Legislature.—Regulation established by the Superintendent of Education concerning the casual expenses of school municipalities.—Divers formulæ.—Circular No. 20 to Inspectors of schools concerning the distribution of school prizes.—Circular No. 21, concerning the publication of the Journals of Public Instruction, establishment of the teachers' fund, and the opening of the normal schools.—Regulation for the formation and management of the teachers' pension fund.—General regulation for the establishment of normal schools in Lower Canada.—Special regulations for admission to studies, and the obtaining of purses at the Javal and Jacques-Cartier normal schools.—Special regulation for admission to studies at the McGill normal school.—Prospectus of the Laval normal school.—Prospectus of the McGill normal school.—Prospectus of the Jacques-Cartier normal school.

The third appendix (G) contains extracts from the reports of the school Inspectors. It would have been impossible to have printed these documents *in extenso* without putting the province to considerable expense. They have therefore been condensed as far as was admissible, giving at the same time a concise account of the state of school affairs within each district of inspection. In preparing these reports, Inspectors should be particularly careful to insert in them only what refers to and can interest the public generally, and above all, avoid including in them complaints or other facts, that should be made the subject of special reports, being purely local; this would considerably simplify the labour of the chief of the educational department, and would very frequently tend to a more prompt attainment of the object in view.

The first report is that of Mr. Bruce; we regret that all the statistical tables accompanying it cannot be published. We give however sufficient to prove that Mr. Bruce conscientiously fulfils the arduous duties of his office. His district of Inspection, exclusively of the city of Montreal is principally composed of the protestant population dispersed over a vast extent of territory, having many difficulties to contend with resulting from their local position: it can therefore be no matter of astonishment that Mr. Bruce's tables do not show such flattering results as could be wished, besides which, his zeal will account for the dissatisfaction