

of the country were reviewed. The discourse of Mr. de Lorimier was unusually interesting, and the validictory address, pronounced by Mr. Génand, enlisted the sympathy of his hearers.

The Bishop of Cydonia, accompanied by many clergymen, attended the examination at the Collego of Ste. Thérèse. His Lordship complimented the Professors on their system of teaching and the students on the entire success with which they had acquitted themselves.

Our exchanges from the Quebec district contain many eulogistic notices of the successful school examinations which took place there. The examinations at the Industrial Collego of St. Michel de Bellechasse, and at the Female Academy of the same place, were held on the 13th and 14th instant. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Principal of the Laval Normal School and the worthy *Curé* of the parish were present. The college is under the direction of Principal Candide Dufresne, assisted by four lay teachers. Miss Vallée and Miss Sweeney, who are in possession of diplomas for Model Schools, granted by the Laval Normal School, conduct the academy, aided by an assistant teacher. The course of study adopted at this Collego is strictly confined to commercial and industrial branches. The number of pupils admitted during the year has been 160. Those of the more advanced course answered with remarkable firmness and precision on all the points of an examination which, at first sight, appeared to be rather over comprehensive and diversified. Notwithstanding the severity of the test which they underwent they generally came off in the most satisfactory manner. Trigonometry, mensuration, mapping, linear drawing, rudiments of moral philosophy, of architecture, of hygiene, of history and of literature formed the subjects upon which the younger pupils successfully stood an examination which might well try their mettle. At the Academy, a like result attended the impromptu examination, if we may call it so, since the illness of one of the teachers had for a time interrupted the usual preparations. The Superintendent of Education, in an address which he delivered to both institutions, at the close of the distribution of prizes, rendered due homage to the zeal and merit of the School Commissioners of the *Bord de l'Eau de St. Michel* who, in difficult times and when none in the parish wished for education in any form, had founded and upheld alone these two institutions, so useful and so important. Every one profited by such examples, and to-day the parish appreciated the advantages of instruction. He spoke also with the most touching pathos, of the memory of the good and courageous man who had distinguished himself the most in this cause, the late Reverend *Curé* Fortier, whose portrait, copied by one of the pupils, formed the most conspicuous object in the collection due to their industry. Called away as he saw his efforts crowned with success in the prime of vigor and energy, this gentleman whose biography we published at the time, has left in his cherished parish many touching reminiscences. The speaker, Hon Mr. Chauveau, also offered a just tribute of praise to the merit of Mr. Toussaint, the Principal of the Collego, now Professor at the Normal School, and to his worthy successor. The Reverend Curate and the Principal of the Normal School then spoke. The last gentleman remarking that the Normal School and the institutions of St. Michel were connected together by gentle though strong bonds of union, since an exchange of Professors and pupils had taken place, which as it appeared would still continue. In the evening a dramatic entertainment was given under the patronage of the Canadian Institute, presided over by Dr. Belleau. After the performance, Dr. Barty, President of the St. Jean Baptiste Society of Quebec, delivered a warm and interesting allocution. The proceeds of the soirée were devoted to the fund for the Monument of 1760.

The colleges of Nicolet, St. Hyacinthe, Terrebonne, l'Assomption, St. Anne Lapocatière, the divors Schools of the Christian Brothers, the Convents of the *Sacré Cœur*, at Sault des Recolets, and of the Sisters of the Order of Mary and Jesus, at Longueuil, of Maria-villa, a great number of Academies for boys and for girls, and Model Schools have all had brilliant public examinations. The praise bestowed on all sides is a sure sign of the attention with which these institutions are regarded. The interesting ceremony which took place at the closing of the session of the Laval University drew together a large assembly. Doctors and Professors; men of letters, and of science, crowded the platform. The secretary announced the names, as follow, of the successful candidates for the degree of Bachelor:—Messrs. N. Cinq-Mars, A. Lachaine, G. Bourdages, J. Langelier, B. Routhier and A. Blais. Mr. Cosmo Morissette took a degree in Law and Mr. Romuald Gariépy in Medicine. The Rector having made a few appropriate remarks, Professor Aubry addressed those present in a forcible and happy harangue, in which he urged upon his young hearers the necessity of diligent study. His discourse, enriched as it was by many appropriate

quotations, evinced a fortile memory, sound principles, and an easy and graceful diction. The University and its staff of Professors well maintained their high reputation.

We cannot close this incomplete sketch without alluding to the examinations which took place at the schools of the Christian Brothers, in the city of Montreal. These schools are frequented by 3872 children of the poorer classes, who receive at little or no charge sound moral, religious and practical instruction. It was announced that provision had been made to admit many children who for want of space, had been unable to gain admittance before. These examinations extended over two days. The French classes were examined Monday, the 23rd July, and the English classes the following day. The distribution of prizes was attended with exercises in mental arithmetic, dialogues, and vocal and instrumental music. Addresses pronounced by the Superior of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, by the Superintendent of Education, and by Mr. Chénier, closed the interesting proceedings.

Distribution of Prizes and Diplomas at the McGill Normal School.

The meeting was opened by an address from the Hon. the Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction for Lower Canada. After a few words in English he said that inasmuch as the French language was part of the course of studies and as the pupil-teachers had to master that language before they could obtain their diplomas he would address them in French. Having dwelt on every branch of study and on all the requirements of teachers and the several duties they have to perform he called on the Principal to address the meeting. Principal Dawson then said:

Mr. Chairman,—Before announcing the diplomas to be conferred by you to-day, I may be permitted very shortly to review the work of this school since its origin. It has now been in operation four sessions, though owing to many inevitable delays, the first of these was of short duration. In the first session, diplomas for Elementary Schools were given to 16 persons. In the second session there were given 15 Model School diplomas and 25 for Elementary Schools. In the third session, 18 Model School and 28 Elementary diplomas. In the present session, I have to recommend 17 for the Model School diploma, and no less than 37 for the Elementary diploma, in all 54, the largest number yet sent forth in any one session. I can recommend this large number, not that we have grown more careless, but that our classes have become better. I attribute this to our greater care in the entrance examination, to the better appreciation of our objects, and the consequent better preparation of students, and to the improvements introduced into our course by the experience of past sessions. Allow me to add, that I know we are sending forth these trained teachers to do an important work for education in this Province. Compare the advantages they have enjoyed with those of the great majority of teachers heretofore. Imagine a young man or woman trained only in the elementary knowledge of some ordinary common school, knowing nothing of the art or science of teaching, passing an examination like that required by our law, in name not higher, and practically often much lower than that required for entrance here. Suppose this same person not sent into a school house to try experiments in teaching at the public expense, but sent here to go through a careful course of study and training, in which all the powers of the mind are stimulated and exercised, stores of knowledge accumulated, the principles as well as the practice of the subjects of elementary education mastered, attention directed to all the most valuable methods of school management and discipline, and then the results of the whole tested by an elaborate series of examination in writing, extending through the two last weeks of the session. How vast must be the difference; how greatly superior the work which such a teacher can do in that priceless labour of training those young minds, which are everything to the progress and welfare of our country. We know too that this work is actually done. Of 86 persons who have in past sessions received diplomas from this school, at least 60 have been or are to my certain knowledge engaged in teaching, most of them in public schools, and many of them under circumstances of great trial and difficulty. Of the remainder 14 have been with us students for the higher diploma. Since the origin of this school upwards of 3,000 children must have experienced its benefits through the teachers sent from it; and in this respect the Normal School differs from all other schools; in that its benefits extend themselves directly to thousands beyond its walls and in the most remote districts. Several teachers also