

Correspondence, etc.

Inspector Hubbard has sent us the following interesting communication in regard to the past of Danville School. In this connection we may state that we will issue next month a series of paragraphs on the history of the schools, whose teachers have been good enough to prepare short sketches for the RECORD. We again call upon every teacher to provide us with the means of inserting a paragraph about each of the superior schools of the province, and trust they will kindly comply with our request. Inspector Hubbard speaking of his experience says:—"My last regular experience as a teacher was in 1859, in connection with what was then known as the Danville Academy, an experience which was abruptly terminated at the Christmas holidays by my appointment to another position. The school was then classed as an 'independent institution receiving a government grant,' and as was quite common in the country academies then, the teacher was not engaged at a definite salary, but was allowed the grant, (nominally \$300, really \$50 less,) and whatever he could realize from tuition fees, employing his own assistants, (if he had any,) and paying other expenses. The school was first opened in 1855, four teachers having preceded me. It would occupy too much space, and would be uninteresting to sketch the multifarious changes of teachers in charge of the school since 1859, but two or three points may be of interest. On the erection of Danville into a separate school municipality, the School Commissioners took the academy 'under control' and united it to the elementary school, thus organizing a *graded* school. The destructive fire of 1883, which swept out a large portion of the village, did not spare the academy building, and the school was left without a habitation. After some delay, a building was procured, not wholly suitable, but fairly commodious and well fitted up for three departments. The break-up, however, and the oft-repeated changing of teachers, with perhaps other causes, had told upon the status of the school, dropping it from an academy to but little above an elementary school. Efforts were made to restore its character as an academy, but with only partial success. The unsuitableness of the building soon became more apparent, and it was decided to erect a new one. Some delay was caused by a disagreement in regard to a site, but that was finally settled by a decision in favor of the old site, and during the past season the Commissioners have erected upon it one of the best school buildings in the Townships. The site is a commanding one, and a high and well lighted basement affords space for two good play-rooms, heating apparatus, etc. The building is of brick, two full stories, each about fourteen feet, and each having two ample school-rooms, well lighted and airy, with separate entries, cloak rooms and closets for boys and girls. The Commissioners deserve much credit for their enterprise and good judgment in providing so good a school-building, which is now occupied by the school in three departments.