

## XII.—QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS OF THE SCHOOLS REQUIRED BY LAW.

The present School Act requires every Common School Teacher to have, at the end of each Quarter of the year, a Public Examination of his School; of which he shall give notice, through the children, to their parents and guardians, and shall also give due notice to the Trustees, and any School Visitors, who may reside in, or adjacent to any, such School Section. Although I am not aware of such a provision existing in any other Common School Law in America, yet I consider it one of the most useful provisions of our own Statute. It is an indirect, but powerful, remedy against the employment of inefficient Teachers; it is well adapted to animate both Teachers and pupils to exertion, to attract public attention to the School, and to excite public interest in its support. In Colleges, and in all well-conducted Public Schools, great importance is attached to periodical examinations; even Conductors of private Seminaries and Schools resort to them, both as means of prompting the efforts of their pupils, and of drawing public support to their establishments. The practice of periodical public examinations cannot fail, therefore, to be eminently conducive to the interests of our Common Schools. The Reports of the District School Superintendents are not specific on that point. I believe, however, that this requirement of the Act of 1846 has been pretty generally complied with. I have heard of the attendance at such examinations being, in some instances, small; but more frequently large and highly gratifying. On such occasions, these examinations have been converted into local School Celebrations, numerously attended by the Clergy and other leading persons of various Religious Persuasions, as well as by the parents and friends of the pupils, accompanied by Addresses, Music, Refreshments, etcetera. Thus, all parties have been gratified, the pupils have been delighted, the Teachers have been encouraged, and a whole neighbourhood has been wrought up and united in a feeling of social oneness, and of lively interest for the success of the School, and the education of their youth. I anticipate very beneficial results, both social and educational, from this provision of the Act of 1846.\*

## XIII.—GRAMMAR AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

It appears from the returns made to the Department, that there are 38 Grammar Schools and Academies,—more or less aided by public funds; that there are 96 Private Schools; that, in 40 of these Schools, the elementary Classics are taught, and, in 53 of them, French, Drawing, and Music are taught; that the total number of pupils reported in these Schools is 3,531.

Some of these Schools are spoken of by the District Superintendents in terms of strong commendation. The Conductors of these Schools have received the visits of the District Superintendent with great courtesy, and have evinced much readiness and satisfaction in giving every information respecting their Schools. It appears from these Reports, and making due allowance for their defectiveness, that, at most, only five per cent. of the school-going youth of Upper Canada receive instruction in Public Grammar and Private Schools; and, therefore, that ninety-five out of every hundred of them are altogether depending upon the Common Schools for their education. No stronger illustration can be required to evince the unspeakable importance of the Common Schools, and the paramount obligation of every friend of the Country to elevate their character and promote their efficiency.

## XIV.—DISTRICT MODEL SCHOOLS, AND THEIR OBJECT.

These Model Schools are designed to be examples of what the Common Schools, in their respective Districts, ought to be, in instruction, discipline, arrangements, etcetera,

\*A Paper on "Uniform Promotion Examination on the Public Schools of Ontario," by Mr. "D. J. McKinnon, Public School Inspector, County of Peel, Ontario, Canada," is printed on page 150-153, and one on "The Influence and the Effects of a System of Uniform and Simultaneous Examinations on Schools and Teachers," by Mr. "William Carlyle, School Inspector of the County of Oxford, Ontario, Canada," on page 154-157 of a "Special Report of the Bureau of Education at Washington, Part II, 1886."