

such a low class are sent into the field they will find employment. The effect is already painfully evident. Very few young men are coming forward, and the few that are, are making it "a stepping stone" to some other profession. In this County, 22 of the young men who taught during the summer, are now prosecuting their studies at the Academies and Colleges, and there are not men to fill their place in the schools. First Class Females are becoming disheartened at finding the sex (judged by those persons) branded as incompetent. Discontinue the lower grade, (third class) remove distinctions both as regards qualifications and remuneration, give "a fair field and no favor," and matters will soon find their proper level."

I am well aware that Mr. McDonald is not alone in the opinion here expressed; and that, at various times, the abolishing of grade E. has been urged. To a certain extent I have concurred in these views, but at the same time felt that the time to make this change had not arrived; no doubt it will eventually be made, but were it done at the present time it is to be feared that many schools in poor and remote places would fail altogether in obtaining even instructors of any grade for their children: But an opinion so fully and strongly expressed demands mature consideration.

EXAMINATIONS.

In July, 1873, was held our first annual examination of candidates for licenses to teach, when 6 candidates for grade A., 106 for grade B., 373 for grade C., 383 for grade D., and 74 for grade E., presented themselves,—making a total of 942. Of this number 580 were successful in obtaining some grade. Comparing this with former examinations, I feel warranted in saying that the candidates brought to their work a better preparation, and that, throughout the entire exercises, there were evidences of more matured scholarship.

At the late examination, for the first time in this department of our work, a lady pupil, of the Pictou Academy, was a successful candidate for the highest, or academic, grade. Females of grades A. and B. are not employed as such in the public schools, but are simply regarded as *first-class female*, or grade C. teachers. The circumstance, therefore, that young ladies do successfully apply themselves and, without prospect of proportionate remuneration, spend time and effort to secure what is but honorary, manifests a love for mental culture worthy of admiration, and affords an example commending itself to teachers of both sexes. The fact now mentioned is noticeable in view of the circumstance that the work of teaching, in spite of all speculation