

In reply to an address presented by the Principal of the Ottawa Normal School, his Excellency spoke as follows: "Gentlemen,—I need hardly assure you of the very great interest with which I take this opportunity of learning by conversation with you the manner and means by which you undertake the arduous, responsible, and important labors devolving on the teachers and students of a great Normal School. You observe that I come from a country long famous for the heed given to the teaching of the whole youth of the land, and as you are aware, the parish schools of Scotland have been the instruments by which training has been given to men who have in every part of the world left their mark, and been an honor to the system founded of old by the wisdom of its Parliament. An equal love of perfecting to the utmost the educational facilities given to the people has led to the introduction in that kingdom of the most stringent measures, and of heavy local taxation, which is ungrudgingly and cheerfully borne, to ensure that no child shall go untaught, and that none shall be taught anywhere but in a good building, where he or she shall have as much pure air to refresh the body as sound instruction for the mind. The position given to the teacher has always been a high one. Indeed, I have often heard him called the most powerful person in the parish. And, gentlemen, it is right that those who fill the responsible positions to which the students here present aspire, should have all the authority which a well-recognized position can give, for they are to take their places in the world as the commissioners of the army of civilization, and the peaceable and honorable leaders of the force which by industry, culture, learning, and training is to advance the intellectual progress and the material prosperity of their country. You will have to deal with a long succession of men who come here to learn how to teach, and these, gentlemen, will see as they pass under their instruction a yet larger number who, in time, will represent the manhood and power of our nation upon this continent. I shall only be able to watch your progress and theirs for a brief period, but I hope I shall be able to show the interest I take in your success, and I shall in after years not cease to follow, with the fullest and warmest sympathy, the progress of the great cause of education, and the effect produced by your efforts and labours on the welfare and greatness of the Canadian Dominion."

Mr. H. L. Slack, M.A., Inspector of Schools for Lanark, always prepares a model report. We clip the following facts from the one just issued by him for 1877: There are in the county 121 schools, with 150 teachers, exclusive of the town of Perth, which has 10 public school departments. The highest salary paid is \$700. Eight teachers hold second-class Provincial certificates, 11 first-class of the old County Board, 118 third-class and 12 under-interim certificates, but all of these are only assistant teachers. The number of children between 5 and 16 is 8,424, and the total number on the registers of all ages 8,498, of whom 4,508 were boys, and 3,990 girls—200 being non-residents. Those who attended less than 20 days were 719; and those over 100, 4,283. The average attendance for the first half year was 3,904, and for the second half 4,035. There are 28 libraries in the county, with a total of 3,503 volumes.

The Guelph School Board has forwarded a petition to the Legislative Assembly to make six years the minimum age instead of five, or give School Trustees power not to admit any pupils under six.

A fine new High School building is being built in Guelph, and will be ready for use in a couple of months.

QUEBEC.

Quebec will have to wait this year for the Education Report, as the House of Assembly will probably not meet before summer.

The hard times are said to have pressed heavily upon the secondary institutions of learning, inasmuch as model schools and academies are partly supported by fees. Even in the best of times these institutions lead but a precarious existence.

Messrs. Weir and Emberson have just completed their annual tour of inspection of model schools and academies. These gentlemen inspected the same schools as they did last year, so as to enable them to judge of the progress made by each school. This is the second year of inspection, and it is yet premature to decide what advantages have resulted from this system of inspection, inaugurated by the Protestant Committee of Public Instruction. One of the greatest evils which the Protestant schools of Quebec have to contend with is the multiplicity of text-books on the same subject, which for some recondite reason is authorized by the Council. The work of inspection is not thereby made easier.

Quebec is behind Ontario in the meaning which she attaches to

the phrase secondary education. In order to participate in the grant made for superior education, the study of Latin is essential. One consequence of this is the sustentation of various educational absurdities in the poorly equipped schools. Classes of boys and girls, against the openly expressed wish of parents, are dragged by main force through *hic, haec, hoc*, and *amo, umas, amat*, to save appearances, and a grant of some \$50 (!) from the Superior Education Fund. Even in the centres of population, such as the cities of Quebec and Montreal, the study of Latin has hard work to hold its place. If this is the case, one can well imagine what must be the condition of classical education in the townships, for instance. If there existed in Quebec anything like public opinion on school matters, or any man of influence independent enough to act in the matter, the question presents no insuperable difficulty. The question would be solved all the more easily, as French is from circumstances almost as compulsory as English. Furthermore, the bulk of the Protestant population is mercantile, and to the mercantile mind the study of Latin and Greek is an abomination. To meet this want, which the higher class schools cannot or do not meet, private schools are established, to teach whatever is wanted, and especially not to teach whatever is not wanted.

A sort of mercantile high school was opened in Montreal on the 3rd of February, by Mr. H. Arnold, in the house lately occupied by Hon. Peter Mitchell. The course of studies embrace English and French, while Latin and Greek are optional and extras. Both in this matter and in the matter of text-books, a move must be made in the immediate future.

The Montreal School Commissioners, who now have control of the High School, contemplate some changes in the hours of teaching, which have hitherto been from 9 to 12, and from 1.30 to 3.30. But most parents find that these hours are, on the whole, most convenient.

The Montreal *Star* has had a series of articles on the advantages and necessity of compulsory education. The belief in the efficacy of governmental interference seems to be ineradicable in some minds. When few care for education at all, it is a great step to compulsory education all at once. For the efficient working of a law, some measure at least of public opinion must be forthcoming to support it. Some time back, the *Canadian Monthly*, in reviewing the work, "L'Instruction Publique au Canada," by Mr. Chauveau, formerly Superintendent, remarked, that the impression left upon the mind after reading that work was, that the public men of Quebec, even the officers of the Education Department, took no real interest in the work of education, particularly of the masses; and that if any feeling at all existed on the subject, it was rather one of hostility. The spread of education would rudely crush hopes which have long been cherished; to hinder the spread of education would, therefore, seem to be the path of duty plainly indicated to those who have cherished such hopes.

There is a great scarcity of educational items this month, which is usually devoted to the annual report.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The report in last month's notes of the resignation of Rev. W. S. Donagh, Inspector of Schools for the County of Cumberland, is confirmed. No announcement has yet been made as to his successor. There is, we believe, a law on the Statute Book empowering the Council of Public Instruction to divide the Province into Inspectorial Districts, regardless of County lines. Pending the arrival of the fitting time to put this law into force, we suppose individual vacancies will be filled up as usual.

We regret to record the death of J. J. McKenzie, Esq., A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Physics in Dalhousie College. Dr. McKenzie's loss will be a serious one to this College, and to the cause of higher education in Nova Scotia.

In educational circles it is canvassed with some degree of interest whether any changes of importance in the School Law of the Province will be made during the approaching session of the Legislature.

A new edition of the School Law Manual is looked for at an early date.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The second annual meeting of the Westmorland County Teachers' Institute was held on the 13th and 14th of February, in the fine new school-house at Shediac. Some fifty or sixty teachers were present, and an admirable tone and spirit characterized the proceedings. Mr. Jas. G. McCurdy, of Moncton, was elected President, and Mr. H. G. Heustis, Secretary-Treasurer. Papers