

Educational Intelligence.

CANADA.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

The Paris (U. C.) *Star* states, that there are at present under tuition in the Common Schools about 410 children; in the upper village school 280, in the lower 130; a number greater than has ever previously attended. This is a very gratifying prospect for Paris, as nearly every child of school age is at present enjoying the benefit of instruction. The *Star* is convinced that it would be difficult to find a child above five years old not attending school.—Two superior school houses are to be erected in St. Catharines during the ensuing summer, one near Yale's foundry, the other at the intersection of King and Academy Streets. They will cost about £2000.—Colonel Kingsmill, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, in the town of Niagara, is promoting school improvements with great zeal. He has drawn up a series of regulations for the guidance of teachers, and discipline of the scholars. Boys who make a noise in the street in passing to or from school are to be punished.—Dr. Burnside, on the 9th of April, (the seventy-ninth anniversary of his birth,) gave practical effect to his long-expressed intention of contributing to the support of Trinity College, Toronto. On that day he presented to the Corporation of the College the title deeds of property in this city, valued at £6,000. The Right Rev. Bishop Strachan, in an appropriate speech, accepted the gift on behalf of the Corporation, and a vote of thanks was passed to the venerable donor.—The new school houses in the cities of Toronto and Hamilton are now about completed, and will be opened for the admission of pupils at as early a period as possible.—An open Convocation of the University of Toronto was held in the hall of the Legislative Assembly, on Tuesday, the 20th instant—the Vice Chancellor presiding. Several degrees were conferred, and twenty students matriculated. The addresses of the President were warmly applauded.—The Bill providing for the reorganization of this institution has received the Royal assent.

SCHOOL LECTURE BY W. O. BUELL, ESQ., PERTH.

On the 3d instant a lecture was delivered at Perth, by W. O. Buell, Esq., Superintendent of Schools, in advocacy of the system of public instruction now being established in Upper Canada. The lecturer gave a brief sketch of the history of education in England, illustrating the *experience* of that country, where the Government had granted large assistance to different religious bodies, instead of establishing a national system of education, under which all classes of the people would have been instructed. Although the nation was wealthy, and large sums had been raised by the different religious bodies themselves, and a large amount had been bequeathed and contributed by individuals, yet the *result* proved that such a course was ineffectual. "*One-half* of the whole adult population of the United Kingdom, including Ireland, cannot read or write. *One-half* of the female adult population of England and Wales cannot sign their names to a marriage certificate." "Great Britain contains a larger proportion of utterly uneducated and degraded men, and women, and young children, than any other Christian country, fit to be ranked in the *same* scale of civilization and intelligence." The lecturer then turned to Holland, giving the *results*, where a different course was pursued, and showing the advantages of having a permanent system of public schools. He then turned to Upper Canada, and dwelt upon the great progress made in a very few years towards the establishment of such a system, and spoke of the fruits already apparent, and of our reasons for believing in a happy future, not indeed distant, when our country should be more generally blessed with the light of philosophy and the glow of patriotism. The religious element, the County Board of Public Instruction, school visitors and school libraries, free schools, and reasons why the rich should support them, as well as the zeal and ability of the Chief Superintendent—were among the topics embraced in the lecture; as well as the duty of parents in reference to schools, and the tendency of the School Law, to get up an educational spirit in the country.—The County Convention, held here to-day, was ably addressed by the Chief Superintendent, although he felt rather indisposed. The meeting was large, and great interest was manifested. A resolution in favor of Township Libraries, and one in favor of a legislative enactment, establishing free schools throughout Upper Canada, passed by large majorities. Several gentlemen addressed the meeting, discussing these topics.—Perth, 5th March.—*From a Correspondent.*

TESTIMONIAL OF RESPECT TO MR. F. M'CALLUM, S. S., No. 5, TRAFALGAR.

—On the 3d inst. a valuable silver watch, with suitable inscription, was pre-

sented by the Trustees of School Section No. 5, Trafalgar, to Mr. Finlay M'Callum, their late teacher, on his retiring from the profession of school-teaching. In the accompanying address, they state that the harmony which has existed in the Section is in a great degree attributable to his indefatigable labors, and the uprightness and consistency of his deportment, while his uniform amiability and kindness have gained him the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Mr. M'Callum made an appropriate reply to this very high compliment.—*Ibid.*

PROMOTION OF EDUCATION AT FINGAL.—"A Friend of Progress" thus addresses the Editor of the London Prototype:—Permit me to give a short account of our doings in Fingal, for the promotion of education, hoping that it may have a tendency to stimulate others to more vigorous action, for the education of the youth of our Province, who, in a few short years, will be brought into public life, to take an active part in the affairs connected with the management of our young and interesting Province. The Fingal school was as much behind the times a year ago, as any school in the County of Elgin; but now, I am happy to say, it is second to none in the county. The people have voted down the old-fashioned high rate bill, and established a rate of 2s. 6d. per quarter, for each scholar attending school, the balance to be raised by a tax on the rateable property of the school section. That, you will say, speaks well for the intelligence and liberality of our section; another thing that has wrought a great change, and a very important one too, in our school, was the efficient services of a suitable teacher, who loves his high calling—because he delights in instructing those committed to his charge, and he spares neither money nor labor to make the school-room attractive to the pupils. The consequence is, that, under such a system, the people found the school-house entirely too small, and they, like intelligent British subjects, voted that the trustees should immediately build a new school-house. Our trustees who also take some interest in education, set to work and erected a large and commodious building, thirty by fifty feet, and fourteen feet between the floor and ceiling; the house is seated according to the most approved plan, four rows of seats in the width of the building, the seats facing the teacher; every seat with a desk in front; the house is divided into three apartments: the larger part seats one hundred pupils, the two smaller parts for recitation rooms. The recitation rooms are of great advantage to the school, from the fact that three classes can recite at the same time in the several rooms, without disturbing each other, by which arrangement pupils can receive double the usual instruction, without any additional expense. Now, I will show you how our teacher manages it. We have but the one paid teacher, the others honorary teachers; every morning our teacher has it distinctly understood, that those in the advanced classes, who get their lessons best for the day, will have the honor of teaching a primary class, as a mark of distinction for their industry. You will see at a glance that the system is good, and that it has a tendency to draw out and expand the ideas of those connected with the school. We had the pleasure of witnessing an examination on the 24th ult., which reflected great credit on the teacher, Mr. Patrick Farrill, a native of London Township."

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PRESTON:—The *Galt Reporter* analyses the Report of the Board of Trustees of Preston for the year 1852, and remarks:—"It is the fullest and most complete document of the kind we have ever seen, and we have great pleasure in laying the following extracts before our readers with the single remark, that where Teachers are treated in the kindly and liberal way they appear to be in Preston, and honored and held in esteem by Parents and the Public, they will perform their duties with far greater hope of success—far more pleasantly both to themselves and the scholars—and be stimulated to greatly more increased exertions for their young charges, than where, as in general, they are ground down to the lowest pittance—and deprived of all authority over their pupils. The salaries paid to the Teachers have been from £60 to £75 a-year. There have been thirty-one visits to the School, viz: one by Local Superintendent, twenty four by Trustees, and six by other persons. The Board has held twenty-four meetings during the year. The School is supported on the Free School system. The school is possessed of seven large Maps, a Blackboard, a set of tablet lessons for Reading and also for Arithmetic, and copy lines, all pasted on boards and varnished, an arithmeticon, and to this the Board have lately added a full set of Orrery and drawing lessons. The School has been kept open the whole year. There have been two public examinations during the year. The *Journal of Education*, from Toronto, is the periodical kept by the Board. The Board having found it necessary to provide larger accommodations for the scholars than could be had in the present school house, it was therefore resolved to purchase a new school site and build a school house thereon, suitable to the wants of the village. Application was made to the Municipal Council to