

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

THE PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing between WM. BROWN MAT. HOWIE, under the style of H. BROWN & CO. is this day dissolved by mutual consent, they having transferred the business to Mr. W. A. FERGUSON; therefore all parties indebted to said Brown and Howie, on account of the Canadian Illustrated News, will please make their payments to W. A. FERGUSON, he being authorized to collect and grant receipts for the same.

WM. BROWN,
MAT. HOWIE.

Hamilton, March 19th, 1863.

NOTICE TO CANVASSERS.

All parties who have hitherto acted as Canvassers for the Canadian Illustrated News, will please report personally at this office before proceeding further with their canvass, unless privately communicated with by the proprietor.

April 3rd, 1863.

W. A. FERGUSON.

Any person sending us the names of ten Subscribers for three, six, nine, or twelve months, will receive a copy free of charge, for each of these periods, respectively. Should those Subscribers, for any term less than a year, renew their subscriptions, the paper will be continued to the getters up of the club.

The 'Illustrated News' is forwarded to Subscribers by mail, free of postage.

THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, APRIL 4, 1863.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

Every friend of liberal education will regret the success which Mr. Scott's Separate School Bill has met with in the Legislative Assembly. Not so much on account of the provisions of the bill itself as because it indicates that Roman Catholics have not yet learned the folly of erecting barriers between themselves and their Protestant neighbors. But however much this perversity is to be deprecated, the bill furnishes but little reason for that intense and bitter excitement prevailing in regard to it in Upper Canada.

In some thirty or forty columns of denunciation of the measure which we have read within the last fortnight, there is not a word to indicate that such a thing as a Separate School has ever existed up to this time in Upper Canada, or that a Separate School law has ever before received a Legislative sanction. In fact the discussion on Mr. Scott's bill has turned entirely upon the principle of Sectarian education, not upon certain amendments to the present law on the subject, which is the real point at issue.

While the press confines itself to *ex parte* statements and inflammatory appeals, it need not be wondered at that much misapprehension prevails on the subject. Nay, we might go further and say ignorance, for we have heard more than one man of average intelligence assert that there is at present no law by which any denomination can obtain a share of the public money for the support of its Schools.

For the benefit of those who may wish to ascertain the exact importance of the Bill, we shall endeavor to present a clear, but brief statement of the facts of the case.

Ever since our government took any interest worthy of mention in education, provision has been made for separate schools. Up to 1850, however, the law does not appear to have been of any practical importance. Such education as could then be had was enjoyed in common by all sects. The children of Protestants and Roman Catholics, fleshed their maiden jack-knives on the same unpainted desk, drew inspiration occasionally from the same copy of Cobb's spelling-book, and helped the teacher to chase squirrels and rob bees nests with an unsectarian harmony which might be imitated with advantage in these days.

In 1850 the school law was amended, partly, it appears, with the object of giving increased facilities for sectarian education. It was then provided that either Protestants or Roman Catholics could establish separate schools in case the teachers of the common schools in the 'sections' where they resided held the opposite religious faith from themselves.

Each school was entitled to a share of the school fund, in proportion to its average attendance of pupils. This was followed by an explanatory Act in 1851, and by a supplementary Act in 1853, chiefly relating to details.

In 1855 the separate school Act, which is at present the law of the land, was enacted.

It repeals the Separate School clauses of the Acts of 1850-'51 and '53 so far as they relate to Roman Catholics, and substitutes others which were intended to be more efficient in their operation. Here is a brief digest of the law, and of Mr. Scott's proposed amendments, stripped of course of a mass of technical detail and parliamentary verbosity:

Five heads of families residing within a School Section may call a meeting for the purpose of establishing a Separate School for Roman Catholics, and if there are not less than ten persons—duly qualified—present, may then and there elect School Trustees, who must also reside within the School Section in which the School is to be established.

Mr. Scott's amendment makes no mention of the number who must be present at the meeting, and permits the election of Trustees 'resident within such Section or adjoining Section.'

Any Roman Catholic residing within a School Section in which a Separate School is established, may become a supporter thereof—and consequently be absolved from payment of the Common School rate—by giving notice annually of his desire to become so, to the Clerk of the Municipality.

By Mr. Scott's Bill any Roman Catholic residing within three miles—in a direct line—of the site of a Separate School, will have the same privilege, and will not be required to renew his notice annually to the Clerk of the Municipality.

Every Separate School established under the Act is entitled to a share of the annual Legislative School Grant in proportion to the number of pupils attending it, but if the average attendance be a less number than fifteen, it is not entitled to any part of that grant. Mr. Scott amends this by omitting the clause relating to the necessary average attendance, and adding that Separate Schools shall also be entitled 'to a share in all other public grants, investments and allotments for Common School purposes now made or hereafter to be made by the Province or the municipal authorities.'

These, we believe, are all the amendments of any importance which the Bill makes in the present law. So far as they are likely to injure our educational system they deserve to be condemned, but no good results can come from a fierce sectarian excitement got up on false pretences.

Will this Bill, if passed, finally close the Sectarian School agitation? This is an important query, and one which we hope our Roman Catholic friends will practically answer in the affirmative. For years past this agitation has been a fertile source of mischief, a fiery foot-ball, to which your crafty roystering candidate for political honors had but to administer a few judicious kicks and straightway he was surrounded by a hooting, yelling, applauding crowd. It has made education no longer a subject for impartial inquiry and philanthropic effort, but a mere party shibboleth, valuable in proportion to its power to place this or that candidate at the head of the polls. If this pitiful state of things could be got rid of by the passing of the Bill, that event would not be an unmitigated evil.

SKATING TOURNAMENT.

The Victoria Skating Rink occupies a pleasant situation, opposite the Horticultural Gardens, on the corner of Gerrard and Sherborne street, in the city of Toronto. It was built in 1862, by Messrs. P. Arnold and Orin Wardell. The good management of the proprietors and liberal patronage of the citizens soon made this a favorite place for winter recreation.

On Saturday, March 7, 1863, a grand prize skating match came off on this rink. It was considered by skaters the great event of the season, and many 'fair women and brave men' looked forward to it with delight. It was the first of the kind that had taken place in the city. The frost on Friday night hardened the ice sufficiently to admit of skating in the forenoon, and many availed themselves of the opportunity to practise for the contest in the afternoon. At twelve o'clock it was thought advisable to haul down the flag, as the frozen surface was being deeply cut by the magic irons. The 'cuttings' were then swept off the ice to have it in better condition for the coming sport at three o'clock. About half past one, hundreds of the elite from all parts of the city began to arrive. Indulgent pa's and loving ma's came to witness the agility of their charming daughters on skates, who, in large numbers, attended by their ever faithful country consins, also presented themselves. It was estimated that more than one thousand persons were present at four o'clock, and it was computed by the door-keeper that at least four hundred persons had passed in during the afternoon.

About half-past three o'clock the judges advanced to the centre of the rink and requested that the ladies who wished to compete for the first prize would enter the ring. There was a commotion among the spectators and thirteen young ladies instantly rushed forward. It reminded one of the pictures

of a fairy scene, as the skaters flitted hither and thither, surrounded by a large circle of enchanted admirers, while Maule's quadrille band played many lively airs.

'A thousand hearts beat happily,
And all went merry as a marriage bell.'

The ice, however, was in a bad condition for the larger ladies, and, in consequence, a few fell by their skates breaking through, while the younger and lighter ones glided along without accident. Beautiful skating was now witnessed. The scene presented an animated appearance, and joy was unconfined, while youth and beauty chased each other with flying feet. A few, however, of the skaters appeared nervous, and did not skate as well as on other occasions. After some time the judges called to the centre of the rink Miss Gustin, Miss Alice Worts, and Miss Elliott, and requested the others to leave the ring, as it now lay between these three. Miss Worts was soon declared the successful competitor, and received the badge of victory amid the cheers of the spectators. Miss Gustin was unmistakably a good skater, and it was hard to judge which ought to carry off the prize.

The second prize was then skated for, twenty competitors entering. After a few minutes Miss Elliott was awarded the prize, a silver flower stand. Miss Gustin did not enter for this, as it was open only to ladies of two years' experience. The third prize, a silver medal, was for gentlemen, and a large number entered, but the ice was so soft that only youths could skate. The competition was so evenly balanced between Master H. Switzer and Master Fred. Perkins that it was decided to give each a prize. The fourth prize, a gold skate, was for all lady skaters of twelve years and older. Forty-five competitors entered. The prize was awarded to Miss L. Wright. The fifth prize was a gold skate to the second best lady skater of twelve years and older. The judges could not decide between Miss Fanny Wright and Miss Rosa Rossin, and gave each a prize. The sixth prize, a silver cup, for boys under 14 years of age, was won by Master Willie Henderson. The seventh prize was a silver cup, for boys under six years of age. Only two entered—Master H. Mason and Master E. Rutherford. The judges decided to give each a prize. The judges were Mr. J. O. Heward, Mr. E. W. Rutherford, Mr. John Boulton, and Mr. John Leys; and they gave entire satisfaction to all.

PRESENTATION OF THE PRIZES.

The prizes were presented on Saturday, March 14th, by his Worship, the Mayor.—About 4 o'clock a circle was formed, inside of which those who were to receive them were formed in line facing the Mayor, who said he had consented to perform the pleasing task of presenting the prizes which were awarded by the proprietors of the rink to the young ladies and gentlemen who had won them at the recent skating match. He would have liked very much to have been present on that occasion to witness the skating, for he had no doubt the matches were admirably and keenly contested, and that the prizes had been properly awarded. He was glad to know that there were such capital skaters at that rink—especially among the young ladies. He would further say that a very good lesson might be taken from the exertions of the competitors at the recent match, one that might well be remembered with great advantage by every child in the city, and that was, that anything that was worth doing at all was worth doing well. He would say to the young ladies and gentlemen present that they could get all the pleasure and recreation which they required by attending the skating rink, which was far better than that attendant upon a heated ball-room. He was glad to see that the ladies had been so successful, and that Miss Worts, although so little a girl, stood first on the list. His Worship then called up Miss Worts, and after addressing a few complimentary remarks to her, presented her with the first prize (a silver flower stand) amid loud applause.

The portrait of this beautiful girl, Miss Alice Worts, is given on our first page.—Though so accomplished in the charming art of sitting on the ice like a fairy, she is only ten years old. Her prize was the silver flower stand, represented on the upper right corner of next page. The second prize given to Miss Elliott, who so nearly equalled Miss Worts, was a flower stand of the same material and form. The golden skates were three in number, miniatures to be attached to watch guards. Our picture shows two.

James G. Worts, Esq., the eminent distiller of Trinity street, addressing the Mayor and the assembly said, he took great pleasure in thanking the proprietors of the rink, and the judges who had awarded that beautiful prize to his daughter. Not only did he

consider it an honour by its being the first prize won on that rink, but because it was the first that had ever been won at a prize skating match in this city. He was glad to see that the young ladies took such pleasure in that invigorating exercise; and if they took plenty of enjoyment on the ice, he was sure they would all have rosy cheeks and good health. (Applause.) It was well known that the women in England took a great deal of out-door exercise, and that was why they were so healthy. He was glad to see that this prize match had come off on the Victoria rink, and he trusted that such a praise-worthy example would be followed by the proprietors of other rinks in the city. He thought that next year an improvement might be made in the distribution of prizes by offering one for young ladies over fourteen years of age. But of course it could not be expected that everything could be understood at the first match. He stood before his Worship on skates, and he thought if every person made so much progress on skates as he had done since he commenced to learn they would get on rapidly. He was happy to say that he had five children on skates on the rink, and he hoped every other gentleman would follow his example and let their children engage in the pleasing and healthful exercise.

The Mayor—I have seven children able to skate, and that beats you, Mr. Worts.

Another gentleman shouted that he had nine at least able to skate (and how many more we were unable to hear, as the spectators were all laughing heartily at this competition between the gentlemen as to who had the greatest number of children on skates.)

The Mayor then called Miss Elliott, and after complimenting her for her success in obtaining a first prize (which was equal to that given to Miss Worts) presented it to her. His worship in like manner presented the other prizes to those who had won them as follows: Master Willie Henderson, Master Herbert Mason, Master E. Rutherford, Miss Rossin, Miss Alice Kingsford, (extra prize) Master H. Switzer, and Master Fred Perkins.

Three hearty cheers were then given for the Mayor, who in reply said that if it were near election time he would be tempted to inflict a speech upon those present; but as that time was a good way off he would merely thank them.

The ice was in pretty good condition, and as there was a band of music present, all greatly enjoyed themselves, many of them by dancing quadrilles. The greatest praise is due to the proprietors of this rink for the excellent manner in which everything connected with it had been carried out. This cannot fail to secure a very large number of subscribers next year.

The silver flower stands, were manufactured by Mr. J. E. Ellis, jeweller, King street. They are Grecian in style. The base is triangular, supported by dolphins.—The fluted columns are eighteen inches high, with three handsome panels, with the Three Graces and ornaments of arms nicely set on each. The silver brackets at top of the columns are festooned with chains—surmounted with a crystal flower dish. These articles, valued at \$50 each, were purchased by subscription. Mr. Ellis presented the miniature golden skates. The proprietors gave the silver medal, and Mr. John Boyd a silver cup. We presume the other prizes were purchased by subscription.

NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL, FERGUS.

This elegant edifice, of which a representation is given on page 251, is situated in the village of Fergus, in the county of Wellington, on the Owen Sound road. It is a three storied stone building and constructed in the most approved style and of substantial materials. The external appearance is imposing and attractive, while the internal arrangements of the house are in every way conducive to comfort and convenience. On the first floor there are a large sitting-room, a reading-room, a large commodious dining-room with kitchen attached, and bar-room. The second floor contains two sitting-rooms and six bed-rooms, excellently furnished, together with a large concert hall, while the third story is devoted exclusively to bed-rooms, and contains sixteen.

James Whyte Esq., who has recently become the proprietor, has newly fitted out every department of the house in first class style and with elegant and costly furniture. From the urbanity and experience of that gentleman and attentiveness of his servants and attendants and the other accommodations above referred to, this House recommends itself to the public as a first class Hotel and one of the best houses for the accommodation of travelers and lodgers West of Toronto.