

The following quotation gives the attendance of pupils at the Schools for 1848:—

"According to the Reports of local Superintendents, the whole School population of Upper Canada in 1848 (that is of the population between the ages of five and sixteen years) was 241,102—being an increase of 10,127 over that of the preceding year. The whole number of pupils reported in attendance at the Schools in 1847 was 124,829; the whole number in attendance in 1848, was 130,738—increase of pupils in favour of 1848, 5,910. But there is a much greater difference in the average, than in the aggregate attendance of the Pupils at the Schools during these two years. The gross average attendance of Pupils in the summer of 1847 was 84,537; in the summer of 1848 it was 112,000. In the winter of 1847, the gross average attendance of Pupils was 89,391; in the winter of 1848 it was 114,800. These results furnish a gratifying illustration of the gradual and rapidly advancing progress of School instruction amongst the youthful population of Upper Canada; although it is lamentable to observe, that nearly one-half of our School population are not in attendance at School at all."

As it may be interesting to many of our readers to know the terms of admission to the Normal School, we quote the following orders of the Board of Education in which these terms are embodied:—

"ORDERED—1 That the semi-annual Sessions of the Normal Schools shall commence on the fifteenth day of May, and the fifteenth day of November, of each year, [and if those days fall upon Sunday, the day following,] and continue for a period of five months each—to be concluded by a Public Examination, and followed by a vacation of one month.

"2. That all Candidates for admission into the School must comply with the following conditions:—[1] They must be at least, sixteen years of age; [2]—must produce a certificate of good moral character, signed by the Clergyman or Minister, of the religious persuasion with which they are connected; [3]—must be able to read and write intelligibly, and be acquainted with the simple rules of arithmetic; [4]—must sign a declaration of their intention to devote themselves to the profession of School-teaching, and that their object in coming to the Normal School is to qualify themselves better for the important duties of that profession. Other Students, not Candidates for School-teaching, to be admitted without signing such a declaration of their intention to become Teachers, on paying the following fees:—For attendance at an entire Course of Lectures and Instruction for one Session, £1 10.; for attendance on the Lectures of either Master for an entire Session, £1.

"3. Upon these conditions, Candidates for School-teaching shall be admitted to all the advantages of the Institution without any charge, either for tuition, the use of the library, or for the books which they may be required to use in the School.

"4. The Teachers-in-training shall board and lodge in the city, in such houses and under such regulations as are approved of by the Board of Education.

"5. A sum not exceeding five shillings per week, towards defraying the expenses of board and lodging, shall be allowed for the present, to Teachers-in-training requiring assistance, on condition that they will engage to remain for a period of not less than one session in attendance at the Normal School.

"6. All candidates for admission into the Normal School must present themselves during the first week of a session, otherwise they cannot be admitted.

"7. All applications for admission to be made to the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Schools, Toronto.

"8. Females as well as males, are admitted to, and instructed in, the Normal School.

By order of the Board.

(Signed,) J. GEORGE HARRIS.

Recording Clerk

"N. B.—The attendance during the last session was as follows, viz.—Males, 104, Females, 22.—Total, 126"

EDUCATION OFFICE.

Toronto, 21st October, 1848.

THE THEATRE IN CONNECTICUT AND VIRGINIA.

Connecticut is distinguished above all the other States of the American Union for two things—the one, the great amount of its public fund, in proportion to the population, for the support of Common Schools. And the other, the prohibition by law, of theatrical representations. On the latter subject we make the following quotation from a New England paper.—

"At the present session of the legislature in that state, an attempt has been made to get a bill through, allowing theatrical shows to be exhibited. A bill to this effect passed the Senate, but met with a most determined opposition in the house. One speaker said, that so far as the interior of theatres and shows were concerned, he was not personally opposed to them, but he should not agree to break down the established policy of the State, in reference to this subject, without great hesitation. Though these amusements might not be bad in themselves, and might not injure a person of matured habits and principles, yet wherever they are found, they are attended by a retinue scarcely proper even to name—a retinue of black legs, loafers, and gamblers. Other speakers were more violent in their opposition. One gentleman said: 'If rattlesnakes and tigers were allowed to go at large, it would not be so bad. You might kill whole dens of these, but you cannot control the evils that would follow the admission of these proposed theatres.' It was also intimated that the proposed change in their state laws was at the solicitation of persons without the borders of the Commonwealth. The result of the debate was nearly a unanimous refusal on the part of the House to concur with the Senate, and allow of theatrical exhibitions in the State."

As theatrical amusements are now being introduced into our Canadian towns, we here give another testimony against them, and that from a branch of the Church, some of whose ministers have written for the stage—we mean the Episcopal Church. We trust that all the members of our Churches will earnestly discourage all such amusements, as utterly inconsistent with Christian sobriety and godliness.

The canons of the Episcopal Church in Virginia contain the following declaration, given by the Episcopal Convention of that State in 1818:—

"Whereas differences of opinion prevail as to certain fashionable amusements; and it appears desirable to many that the sense of the Convention should be expressed concerning them, the Convention does hereby declare its opinion that gaming, attending on theatres, public balls, and horse-racing, should be relinquished by all communicants of this church, as having the bad effects of staining the purity of the Christian character, of giving offence to their pious brethren, and of endangering their own salvation, by their rushing voluntarily into those temptations against which they implore the protection of their heavenly Father, and this Convention cherishes the hope, that this expression of its opinion will be sufficient to produce conformity of conduct and unanimity of opinion among all the members of our communion."

THE THEATRE AND CHOLERA.

During the recent visitation of the Cholera, the manager of a Theatre, in one of the western cities of the United States, had the play-bills, for a particular evening, headed with the words, *a Cure for Cholera*. We may charitably suppose that he thought, that as mirth and fun are regarded by some as antidotes to care, so they might prove also to be antidotes to fear, and in this way tend to avert cholera. But we cannot acquit the poor man of a presumptuous contempt of that Divine agency, which is concerned alike in sending and controlling the pestilence. And, the fact that the very night in which he had arrogantly boasted that he could charm the destroyer away from others, found himself in its fatal grasp, is one in which the most thoughtless might see the hand of God.

An event of a somewhat similar kind has just occurred in Toronto. On Saturday, the 11th August, the inhabitants were given to understand by bills of the largest size plentifully posted on the walls, that Victor Hugo's *terrible drama of the Chamber of Death* would be acted in the evening. The manager possibly thought that the drama would suit the eve of the Lord's holy day, and such a time as the present, when pestilence and death are so common. It was not to be a comic drama, nor even a melo-drama, but a *terrible drama*. But, ah! the exercises of the play-house will not harmonise with preparation either for the Sabbath or for death. As well might it be attempted to introduce the actual preacher and the reading of the Bible on the stage, as to give there any true representation of the "Chamber of Death" that could be attractive.

We did not hear what was thought of the representation; but the phantasm of the night was, as we learn from a weekly paper, a reality on the following day, with one of the actors, and with a young gentleman, a boarder in the same hotel, who had been one of the audience. Cholera arrested them soon after they came out of the theatre, and their rooms without anything of the preparation with which the mock shew of the theatre had been gotten up, were soon transformed into the sad reality of CHAMBERS OF DEATH—while, if report speaks true, there were few, few to gaze on the scene and minister solace of one kind or another to the poor actors.

Our advice would be to all our readers—our young readers especially—not to enter a theatre until they have a scriptural persuasion that they are born again, and are so prepared to die. When they have this, we shall be quite willing to leave them to their own convictions of duty in regard to theatres and all such places of amusement.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR THE TIMES.

The following story is taken from the *London Medical Times*. It is perfectly in keeping with other well-attested instances of the influence of fear in inducing disease, and even death. Who that reads it may not be reminded of the preciousness of that prescription—"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God, which