

For the REVIEW.]

OPENING OF THE PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

In consequence of the change in the length of sessions, work did not begin in the Normal School at Fredericton so early this season as it has done for several years past. After three years of short sessions or terms, of scarcely five months each, it has been found desirable to return to the system of nine-months terms, with which, of course, is connected only one examination for license in the year, instead of two. The six large classes of student teachers trained (?) and licensed during the last three years have not only filled the places of all the holders of local licenses (except in certain French districts), but furnished more than an ample supply to meet the ordinary demand for teachers. Although the numbers in attendance under the long term arrangement may be less for a year or two than when the terms were only one-half as long, still, it is believed that the Normal School will, in the course of two or three years at most, send out a sufficient number of teachers annually to fill all vacancies and supply all new schools.

The entrance examination took place on the 1st and 2nd days of September, inst., and the results were announced on Monday morning, the 5th. Of 124 applicants who presented themselves, 74 made the required average of marks and were admitted; 32 others were admitted conditionally, two of whom preferred not to remain, and 18 failed to pass. Of those who came forward on the 6th, claiming admission without examination, 13 were admitted on departmental certificates of Standard VIII.; 5 as holding certificates of matriculation at the University; 2 as holding valid licenses, and 1 as a graduate in arts. Nine applicants presented certificates which did not entitle them to admission, but these were admitted on supplementary examination.

The formal opening exercises of the school were held on Friday, the 9th inst., commencing at 2.30 p. m. On the platform were the Chief Superintendent who presided, His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, Dr. Harrison, President of the University, the Principal and Staff of Instructors of the Normal School, and the four Teachers of the Model Departments. In the course of his opening address Principal Mullin read the following statistical statement :

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENT TEACHERS ENROLLED.

I. *By Counties.* Albert, 4; Carleton, 11; Charlotte, 17; Gloucester, 5; Kent, 11; Kings, 6; Madawaska, 2; Northumberland, 8; Queens, 5; Restigouche, 5; St. John, 22; Sunbury, 6; Victoria, 1; Westmorland,

8; York, 32; (P. E. I.), 1; (Newfoundland), 1; total, 145.

II. *By Religious Denominations.* Baptist, 27; Church of England, 13; Free Christian Baptist, 14; Methodist, 31; Presbyterian, 34; Roman Catholic, 23; Others, 3; total, 145.

Young men, 20; young ladies, 125.

English department, 134; French department, 11.

Admitted on examination, 113; otherwise, 21.

134, English department.

Chief Superintendent Crocket cordially welcomed the students to the institution, and addressed them upon the true character of the work before them. "The New Education," so-called, was not new in its principles, but had come down to us from the ancient ages. They should ever seek to gain an intelligent apprehension of the subjects brought before them, and to lead their pupils to the same. Ideas were before words. True study was not mere learning.

Sir Leonard Tilley, in his genial way, spoke of the educational progress of the last thirty years, and expressed his conviction that the affections of children must be trained as well as their intellects. Teachers should lead by cords of love rather than seek to drive with the rod. Speaking as Chairman of the Board of Education, he welcomed the students to the privileges of the Normal School, and in closing said the garden and grounds of Government House would always be open to them on Saturdays, and also the conservatory in the winter months.

President Harrison followed His Honor's kind invitation by inviting the students to visit the grounds of the University, and also the library, museum and observatory, at such times as might be fixed by Principal Mullin and previously made known to him. He said he regarded the acceptance by the Normal School of certificates of matriculation at the University as a token of the goodwill of the former institution towards the latter; and that this goodwill would be reciprocated by the University in admitting holders of first-class licenses to the second year's classes in college, upon their passing a satisfactory examination in the classics.

The student teachers, who had sung the national anthem, as usual, on the entrance of the Lieut.-Governor, now sang, very appropriately,—

"For the blessings that surround me,
Thanks to thee, my native land!"

After which the Principal thanked the visitors for their presence, and for the interest manifested by the citizens generally in the welfare of the school. Having sung the dismissal hymn, the student teachers marched to their class-rooms, and the proceedings were at an end.