

The steady progress of our schools and the growing appreciation of our educational privileges manifested throughout the county are, to say the least, gratifying.

Notwithstanding the unusual depression in almost every department of industry, no signs of a retrograde movement can be seen in the schools, which, on the contrary, are increasing in number and efficiency. Not one section, provided with a suitable school-house, has been without a school during the entire year.

In the Winter term there were 46 schools, and in the Summer 50, showing an increase of 5 over that of 1876. The number of pupils registered in the Winter term was 2163, and in the Summer 2879, with a grand total days attendance of 137,874 for the Summer, and 142,807 for the Winter, representing an increase of 23013 over that of last year.

The subjoined table exhibits the number, grade and sex of the teachers employed during the year :

WINTER TERM.

Teachers.	Grade—A.	B.	C.	D.	E.
Male.....	1	9	5	4	19
Female.....			14	8	26
Assistants.....			1		1
	1	9	20	12	46

SUMMER TERM.

Teachers.	Grade—A.	B.	C.	D.	E.
Male.....	1	5	3	2	11
Female.....		1	18	11	40
Assistants.....			1	1	2
	1	6	22	14	53

The promptness with which sections respond to the notices from the Board of Commissioners to provide themselves with suitable school-houses confirms my belief that in a very short time not a discreditable building will be found occupied for school purposes in our County.

Grafton Section has made commendable efforts in replacing their school houses, and now have a neat and commodious building completed, and have again commenced school.

Pleasant River has made good progress in the erection of a new house, and will, no doubt, push it to a rapid completion. Some difficulty existed in reference to the proposed site, which, however, was settled by the Commissioners, and the building will be completed, ready for use, after the Christmas holidays.

Albany New is progressing more slowly with their work. A little assistance from the Commissioners will, no doubt, stimulate them to greater activity.

Hibernia has also been awakened to the necessity of a Winter School, and will have their house plastered and finished ready for school after holidays.

One new section (Summerville) has been added to the list in the Southern District by the sub-division of two larger ones, and a new and commodious school-house with a hall over-head has been erected and will be open for school in the summer.

While the multiplying of smaller sections at the expense of the larger ones, is not strictly in accordance with the recommendation of the Council, yet, it manifests an ambition on the part of parents to keep their children at