

appointed, addresses the pupils; or addresses are solicited from the teachers and other persons in attendance. In the afternoon there are class-drills, lectures, discussions, or reports on subjects pertaining to school policy. Original essays are sometimes presented, and select readings. I was at one place where a class inspector, who was previously appointed, examined each class after their recitations.

When six of the most intelligent men of the township (such the school board should be), all of the teachers, many of the parents, and other friends of education meet with one of the schools in the capacity of an institute, it produces a wonderful effect in stimulating the pupils in their studies, sustaining the teachers, and in every way advancing the improvement and prosperity of the schools. They give teachers chances to make acquaintance and to extend professional courtesy to each other. In them all become both learners and teachers. Time passed in them is not lost to any body.

If the friends of common schools in Ohio could see the working of the Township System as it is to be seen here in Pennsylvania, they would not be satisfied till they could have it established in their State. It has advantages which must be seen to be fully appreciated. When the school board is selected from the whole township, instead of having a separate board in each sub-district, men more competent and more interested in the welfare of schools can be put into the office; and many of the troubles that now disturb the peace of rural districts, and spoil the schools, may be obviated. — *Ohio Educational Monthly*.

VIII. Miscellaneous.

1. HER MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY.

Her Majesty's Birthday is always welcomed by the people of British America with the utmost enthusiasm. From the time when a handful of colonists settled in Western Canada, and "from the forest won these farms" which now form the pride of our land, or when Wolfe raised the flag of Britain on the Heights of Abraham, the anniversary of the reigning monarch's birth has always been celebrated by our people as the great national holiday. And in so doing the British American people have been actuated not only by a feeling of personal affection to the sovereign, but also by a desire of showing their respect and esteem for that form of constitutional monarchy under which it is their pride and privilege to live. They have had too much good sense to be beguiled by the allurements of Republicanism, they have not failed to discern that the liberty which they enjoy is of a far more stable and enduring character than that which is possessed by any other community, and despite many temptations and many discouragements, they have remained true and unwavering in their loyalty and devotion. They have seen that the pomp and circumstance which surrounds the monarchy is not the empty tinsel show which its enemies assert that it is, but that every item of form and splendour which clothes the dry skeleton of utility with beauty and feeds the heart with purifying and refining fancies has no meaning in it symbolical of that majesty and decorum which must at all times be an attribute of a government which is really effectual as the putter down of evil-doers and the defender of the well ordered classes of society.

Never, perhaps, at any former period in the history of British America has this day been attended with more auspicious circumstances than now. The union of these Provinces hoped for a year ago has now become a matter of certainty, and if Canada has hitherto been regarded as the brightest jewel in the crown of Britain, with how much fairer lustre will she shine, when with the sister Provinces clustered around her she forms no longer a "weak point" in the Empire, but a source of strength and greatness, of honor and renown. There are also other causes which surround the celebration of Her Majesty's 47th birthday with peculiar interest. Within the last few months we have been and still are threatened with invasion by a band of lawless ruffians, merely because we are loyal subjects of the British Queen. How their machinations have been defeated, how Canadian honor and patriotism has been proved, is well known. And as the words of Britain's grand old anthem resound in our ears to-day, they will have a wider significance than heretofore, as we remember the part which we have taken to "scatter her enemies," and to "frustrate the knavish tricks" of those who sought to overthrow Victoria's sovereignty upon this continent.

Her Majesty's return to public life for the first time since the lamented death of the late Prince Consort, took place during the past year, and her subjects the world over celebrate the anniversary of her birth, will not fail to congratulate themselves and to be grateful to the King of Kings for the new born hopes to which her reappearance among her subjects at home has given rise. Not only in the splendid hall of the Imperial Legislature has her Majesty's

reappearance been hailed with inexpressible delight, but at Aldershot the cheers of her faithful soldiery have welcomed the sovereign's presence, and the sick and sorrowful in more than one public institution have been soothed and comforted by words of kindly encouragement and sympathy from the Monarch of the widest realm in Christendom. Thus, as of old, by acts of Christian benevolence and charity the Queen is constantly renewing and strengthening the ties which unite the British people to the British throne. During the year which is past Her Majesty has been called upon to bear another grievous domestic affliction, in the death of her tried and true-hearted counsellor and relative the King of the Belgians. It is well known that since the death of her husband, the Queen has frequently turned to that old and experienced friend for counsel and advice, so that in losing him she has lost not only an affectionate relative, but also a reliable guide and adviser. But in this as in her former greater trial we may well hope that the sincere love of her people may be found a source of comfort and support. Perhaps upon no previous occasion of the kind has there been so much prosperity and contentment among the people of this portion of the Empire. The situation here is in a high degree cheering and fraught with hope for the future. At home though a temporary panic has for the time marred the prosperity of commercial circles, we have every reason to hope that it may soon pass away.

The terrible scourge which worked so much havoc among the cattle, and blighted the prospects of many a British farmer, seems now to have almost entirely disappeared. In the West India Islands an attempt at revolt among the colored people of Jamaica was quickly subdued, and strenuous efforts are being made, with every prospect of success, to reorganize society there upon a better basis. In New Zealand the Maori war has been brought to a successful termination, and we have reason to hope that Her Majesty's subjects in that far distant part of her dominions will have leisure to pursue the arts of peace and civilization, and to develop the numerous resources of their beautiful land. Nor has the Empress of India less reason to congratulate herself upon the prosperity of her vast domain, to which during the past year another extensive territory has been added. The Fenian rebellion has been stamped out of existence in Ireland, without any bloodshed, and although the United States government and people, jealous of the extent and grandeur of British power, do not appear to be actuated with the most friendly feelings towards us, we have not much fear that our present condition of prosperity and peace will be destroyed by any active hostility on their part. To her who values the lives and happiness of her subjects so dearly, the prospect of continued peace must be indeed precious, and should those hopes prove deceptive and war with all its horrors come upon us, the Queen may rely upon it that her British American subjects will not be found slumbering at their posts, but with hearts and hands prepared to do their part in the defence of the Empire.

In every quarter of the globe this day is being celebrated. On the far off plains of Australia and Van Dieman's Land, in China, and on the burning steppes of India, or away among the grand solemn scenery of the Himalayas, cannons will thunder and flags will flutter, and British throats roar lustily in honor of the occasion. In the little settlement of Aden, at Cape Town, and Sierra Leone, in Africa, in Great Britain and throughout the wide territory of British America, prayers will ascend to Heaven asking that its choicest gifts may be poured upon our Sovereign's head.

And long as the sons of the sea kings steer their course around the watery world, long as virtue is woman's fairest ornament be she princess or peasant, long as loyalty shall endure, and patriotism remain our proudest boast, the name of VICTORIA will be cherished among us, and her memory shine like a star o'er the dark waters of centuries yet to come. — *Hamilton Spectator*.

2. THE GUELPH SCHOOL CHILDREN.

At the recent celebration of Her Majesty's birth day at Guelph, school children occupied a prominent place. The *Herald* says:—The first feature of the Celebration programme that appeared to greatly interest the populace, was the singing of the children attending the public schools, some 800 in number. A series of seats rising one above the other, and extending along the entire west end of the Market House, had been erected for their accommodation, and to this centre of attraction the pupils of the different schools, each child bearing a tiny flag of a single color, and each school headed by its teacher and its standard bearer, with a large flag bearing the title of the school, proceeded at the appointed hour—9 30—and when ranged on the scaffolding in three sections, the red, white and blue, with the Union Jack and distinctive banners on the right and left, their faces radiant with health and happiness, waiting excitedly for the signal that was to call forth their outburst of song, they presented a living picture well calculated to excite the most pleasurable emotions in the hearts of all the leal-hearted spectators