

ford cannot be surpassed for their efficiency in point of teachers. Of this we speak from experience. Especially do we refer to the High School, which, lately, we have had several opportunities of visiting in company with the Superintendent, W. Johnstone, Esq., and with others of our townsmen who take and exhibit an interest in the cause of Education. Mr. Robins, the principal, is ably seconded in the boy's department by his assistant, Mr. Smith. Both seem thorough masters of their trying but most useful and honorable profession. The order which reigns in the school, the classification of the pupils, and the attention by the scholars to the word of command are all admirable. Not less so is the acquaintance with first principles shown by the boys in analysing the matters given them for study, whether they be difficult problems, abstruse lessons, or the most simple questions that fall to the lot of the schoolboy to answer. What we have said of the boys' department, we may say of the female portion of the school, under Miss Morrison, assisted by Miss Jennings and Miss Codey. The whole school is an honor and a blessing to Brantford, and cannot fail to be appreciated, by all who possess the ability and good sense to appreciate the untold advantages to society of the sound and liberal education of the young. On this subject we may say more anon.—*Brantford Courier*, Dec. 9th, 1854.

#### EXAMINATIONS OF THE TORONTO CITY SCHOOLS.

Last week, the ordinary Examinations, prior to the Christmas Holidays, took place in the several Public Schools, and gave, generally, gratifying evidence of substantial progress. The attendance of parents and guardians was not so numerous as might have been expected, although their presence on such occasions tends to encourage both teachers and pupils.

The Local Superintendent delivered also, in four of the Schools, the Educational Series of Lectures required by law,—the subject chosen being the history of our City Schools since 1844: their progress and difficulties. In the course of the Lectures, important statistical facts were brought forward, and comparisons were drawn between the Public Schools of this City and those in Hamilton and London, greatly to our advantage. Here we have six Ward Schools of modern construction, while the cost per head for educating pupils is less here than in either Hamilton or London.

The immense advantages furnished by the adoption of the system of Free Education, can hardly be adequately appreciated. The average assessment of each individual of those classes whose children enter our schools, or for whose benefit, principally, they are sustained, does not exceed 5s. 10d. per annum,—for which sum a parent may get education for his whole family of school age, namely, from 5 to 16 years. The actual cost to the City, per pupil, is about \$7 each per annum; the difference being, of course, paid by the wealthier classes of society.\* Thus, a poor man, instead of paying \$40 or \$42 per annum for educating six of his family, gets them all educated for the average rate of only 5s. 10d., or about 1s. each per annum.

Looking at the character of the Schools, and the provision which has now been made, not only for the mental and moral culture of the youth, but for their physical health and comfort, we earnestly hope that during the coming year the value of those Educational Institutions will be more highly appreciated than they have hitherto been. Every friend of education should urge attendance at the Schools—regular, systematic attendance—upon all who may be within the sphere of their influence.—*Examiner*.

#### EXAMINATION OF THE HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL.

The semi-annual Examination of this institution closed last evening, much to the satisfaction of all parties, and proved in every way satisfactory.

No branch of English education is neglected; and every pains is taken to have the best instruction given, in a form most attractive and most easily comprehended by the very young scholars who form a large proportion of the advanced classes. Nor are the rudiments of knowledge at all lost sight of; but the simpler elements are made a sure foundation for the noble edifice of science and intricate learning to be afterwards built upon.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the close of the examination:

Moved by Alderman Moore, and seconded by Alderman McLroy,—“That the sincere thanks of the parents and guardians of the pupils taught in this school are due, and are hereby tendered to J. H. Sangster, Esq., and his assistants, for their earnest endeavors to promote education in this City, under the Common School System, as evinced by the progress and efficiency of the children during the past terms and exhibited at the present examination, and, that the Trustees are entitled to the warmest congratulation on the success of their labors in this department.”—Carried unanimously.

JOHN TRILLER, Chairman.

#### WATERLOO COUNTY EXAMINATION.

The Examination of scholars from the several Schools in the County of Waterloo, was held in the County Court House at Berlin, on Wednesday the 27th December, pursuant to the notice given by the Warden.

Forty competitors were present, each of whom was known, not by name but by the number affixed to the breast, and in order that nothing might be wanting to accomplish the laudable object which the County Council had in contemplation, the services of J. H. Sangster, Esq., Principal of the Central School, Hamilton, were procured, who is one of the best if not the very best Teacher in Canada.

Before proceeding with the examination, Mr. Sangster made a few appropriate remarks, and then requested those who were to compete in History to rise. An arrangement had been previously made, that each competitor who missed three times had to retire. By examining according to this mode too much time was taken up with the first three branches, so that the examiner afterwards requested those who missed once to retire. This new move occasioned some dissatisfaction for a short time, but the time being so limited it could not be done otherwise.

The first four branches, viz., Penmanship, History, Practical Arithmetic, and Mental Arithmetic occupied nearly five hours, so that in order to finish the examination the same day, a comparatively short time was left for the six remaining branches, viz., Geography, Grammar, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Algebra and Geometry. It was half-past eleven o'clock, P.M. before the examination closed, and it was unquestionably an excellent one. Many parties had previously formed a very high opinion of Mr. Sangster's abilities, but even the most sanguine were far surpassed in witnessing the mode in which Mr. Sangster conducted the examination throughout. He is in fact a *Model Man and Teacher*.

Several of the pupils acquitted themselves admirably well, and reflected great credit both to themselves and their teachers.

The Warden then offered a few appropriate remarks to the pupils in a very affectionate manner. He congratulated the successful competitors, and likewise endeavored to console those who were probably disappointed, by informing them, that although they would be somewhat dejected by the present disappointment yet they might probably have another opportunity next year; thinking, no doubt, that the renewal of hope would tend to console them. He also encouraged all of them to prosecute their studies with renewed vigor and assiduity, assuring them that they would ultimately be rewarded for every hour well spent in youth. He told them, in his ordinary cheerful manner, that he had come to this country from Scotland, a stranger in a strange land, that the people of Waterloo had made him Warden of the County, but that of all the honors conferred on him during his lifetime; none afforded him such pleasure and delight as those he had received when a boy at school; drawing at the same time from his pocket ten silver medals which had been awarded to him for proficiency in different branches of education. (Great applause.)

After thanking those who had attended, and proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Sangster for the efficient and impartial manner in which he had conducted the examination, he resumed his seat. The audience responded to the Warden's proposition with great applause, and Mr. Sangster, in reply, thanked them kindly for the honor which they had conferred on him, and assured them that he had never before examined more talented pupils than some of those were whom he had examined that day. A vote of thanks was also proposed to Dr. Scott, the Warden, for the interest he had taken in promoting the cause of education in the County of Waterloo, which was likewise responded to with cheers.

Three Prizes being given for each of the ten branches, and also a Silver Medal to the best general scholar, the distribution was made as follows:

Preston School.—James Baikie, Teacher, 8 First, 3 Second, 1 Third Prize.

Galt School.—Robert McLean, Teacher, 2 First, 1 Second, 5 Third Prizes; A. Young, Teacher, 3 Third Prizes.

Berlin School.—W. B. Smith, Teacher, 5 Second, 1 Third Prize.

Ayr School.—John Walker, Teacher, 1 Second Prize.

The Medal was awarded to Johann Lehmann, of the Preston School, who had received six of the First and one of the Second Prizes. The boy is a German, and has acquired nearly all his proficiency in the short space of two years, while with Mr. Baikie, the Principal of the Preston School. The medal bears the inscription:—“The County of Waterloo Premium awarded to the best general Scholar.” On the reverse:—“Presented to Johann Lehmann, of the Preston School, 27th December, 1854.”—*Communicated*.

\* The cost of sustaining Colleges and Grammar Schools is also borne alike by all classes.