

Editorial Notices, &c.

For an account of the SEMI-ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF THE NORMAL AND MODEL SCHOOLS, we refer to the pages 54 and 55 of this *Journal*; and on page 58 we insert the questions proposed to the candidates for the GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S Prizes for proficiency in the Science of Agriculture. In all respects this examination is the most satisfactory we have yet witnessed since the establishment of the Normal School, as gratifying as former examinations have been. Those who attended the elementary part of the Normal School examination, and the examination of nearly 300 children in the Model School (the school of practice for Students in the Normal School) had the opportunity of witnessing the utter groundlessness of the imputation made by some uninformed or hostile persons, that due attention is not paid to the first elements of a Common School Education: whereas those are the subjects to which the highest importance is attached, and on which the most anxious attention is bestowed. Nor are Teachers-in-training introduced to any of the higher branches of English Education until they have been thoroughly grounded in the more elementary branches. It should also be remembered that more than three-fourths of these students have been actual School-teachers before coming to the Normal School; and a very large proportion of them had received first class or general certificates of qualification as teachers, which they presented on applying for admission to the Institution. It may likewise be remarked that the mode of instruction in the Normal School is by oral lectures, not book-teaching; that Students learn to investigate subjects, and not to go over so many pages of a book—to think, to compare, to reason, not to load the memory—to master principles, not chapters—to be trained, not crammed.

But it is not to be supposed that all who have been trained in the Normal School will be able teachers. It will be seen by the account of the concluding proceedings of the Examination, that all the Teachers in attendance have not received pecuniary aid or even a certificate on leaving,—though they have been exemplary in their conduct, and permitted to attend the lectures and exercises of the Institution. And there will be found like discrimination in the certificates given to others. Several students, after one or more month's trial, have been dismissed for want of the requisite capacity or diligence, and have gone forth as teachers; and we have known attacks made upon the Normal School by persons who ought to have known better, on account of the deficiencies of these persons who professed to have come from the Normal School, but who had no certificate of approbation, much less of qualification, from the authorities of that Institution.

The testimonies however from Counties where approved Teachers from the Normal School have been employed, are numerous, and ample to place the Institution above the attacks referred to; while competent judges who have witnessed the examinations, and attended some of the daily exercises in both the Normal and Model Schools (all of which are at all times open to visitors from any part of the Province) have expressed but one opinion as to the practical and thorough character of the system of instruction pursued in those important establishments.

GOOD EXAMPLE—JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.—We refer with much pleasure and satisfaction to the disinterested generosity of Messrs. Carman and Elliot, and the Messrs. J. & G. Brouse of Matilda, recorded among our items of *Educational Intelligence* on the 61st page. Such noble efforts to raise the standard and elevate the character of our Common Schools and of the profession of school-teaching; as also to promote the circulation of valuable information on educational subjects among the School Sections of the Township, deserves especial notice and commendation. In addition to the Prizes of Messrs. Carman and Elliot, the Messrs. Brouse have ordered, through the Township Superintendent, (the Rev. Mr. Dick), a copy of the current year's volume of the *Journal of Education*,

for each of the Schools in the Township which they represent in the County Council,—to be paid for out of the remuneration which they have received while in attendance at the Municipal Council as Reeve and Deputy Reeve. We cordially thank the gentlemen referred to for their valuable and spontaneous co-operation in the promotion of the great work of popular education and social advancement in which we are mutually engaged, and cannot too warmly recommend their admirable example to all others who wish to see Canada, at no distant day, occupy a proud pre-eminence in the universal education of her people, and the general intelligence and morality of her sons.

It is however a matter of surprise and regret to remark, that so few School Teachers have availed themselves of the *Journal of Education*, although so prominent an object and feature of it has been to elevate the position and advance the interests of the Teacher. By the diffusion of educational information and a growing estimate of its value and importance in any School Section, no person is so directly benefitted, in a pecuniary point of view, as the Teacher; and therefore no one is more deeply concerned than himself to procure and circulate a *Journal of Education*. If, however, the Teacher prefers a political to an Educational Journal, and has not spirit and zeal enough to use any of the means which all experience has pointed out to advance the interests of his profession, he cannot complain that those among whom he lives are alike indifferent to it. If a man will not endeavour to help himself, he will look in vain for help from others.

On the other hand, we have been gratified with many happy examples of the extent to which Teachers have been benefitted themselves, and the interests of education advanced in their Sections, by their exertions in obtaining and promoting the circulation of the *Journal of Education*. Our only object in voluntarily and gratuitously assuming the labour and responsibility of issuing this *Journal*, is to advance the most important and general, yet most neglected interest of the country; and thankful and encouraged should we feel, and happy would it be for the people and youth of the land, did the spirit of the Councillors, and Messrs. Carman and Elliot of Matilda, and of some Teachers and Trustees whom we could name, animate the Councillors, Teachers and Trustees in every Township of Upper Canada.

Since writing the foregoing, the Municipal Council of *South Crosby* has ordered a copy of the *Journal of Education* for each School Section in that Township.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

I. Agricultural Education in Upper Canada	Page 49
II. MISCELLANEOUS. 1. Blackboards. 2. Questions for a Young Man. 3. Power of Knowledge. 4. Child's Way to Heaven [Poetry]. 5. Education in Great Britain and U. S. 6. Teachers' Institutes. 7. Religion an Element of Greatness. 8. British Colonial Empire	50—53
III. Normal School Examination—Notices of the Toronto Press	54—56
IV. EDITORIAL. 1. Agricultural Education, U. C. 2. Teachers' Institutes—Circular, with Instructions for holding them in U. C. 3. Normal School Instruction—Revised Terms of Admission to the Normal School, Toronto. 4. Examination Paper for the Governor General's Prizes. 5. Remarkable Mechanical Talent. 6. Distribution of N. Y. State Literature Fund	56—59
V. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE—1. Canada. 2. British and Foreign. 3. United States	60—63
VI. LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE	62—63
VII. EDITORIAL NOTICES	64

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—To the 29th of April, inclusive.

Rev. T. J. Hodgskin (3), Scobie & Balfour (8), Ottawa District Council (13), J. E. Pell, Rev. P. Jones (2), G. McKay, C. W. Ferguson (3), Rev. J. Armour, Rev. S. Rose, Rev. W. H. Poole (3), S. Newcomb, B. Hayter, Esq. (2), J. S. Howard, Esq., R. Dickson, Rev. G. Kennedy, Rev. J. Elliott, T. Keys, T. J. Robertson, Esq., H. Y. Hind, Esq., J. Gilchrist, E. Ketcheson, Esq., W. Watson, Rev. A. Dick (in part for 24 copies), R. Lunn (2), D. B. Brown (2), Rev. J. Lyburtus (3), J. McKay, N. Eastman, J. Hawkins, Rev. T. Williams.

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* * The 1st and 2nd Vols. neatly stitched may be obtained upon application. Price, 5s. per Volume. Single Nos. 7½d. All Communications to be addressed to Mr. HODGINS, Education Office, Toronto.

Toronto: Printed and Published by THOMAS H. BENTLEY, at 5s per annum, and may be obtained from A. GREEN, SCOBIE & BALFOUR, and A. H. ARMOUR & Co., Toronto; R. D. WADSWORTH, General Agent for Canada; J. McCoy, Montreal; and D. M. DEWEY, Arcade Hall, Rochester, N. Y.