

gence of the scholars and the discipline of the school struck me most favourably.

I may add that a visit to twelve of fifteen schools in the County of Huron, most of them in new school-houses, through the courtesy of J. R. Miller, Esq., impressed me with the conviction that the County has reason to pride itself on its educational advantages and progress as well as on the administrative abilities of its Inspector, Mr. Miller.

A recent visit of a most satisfactory character, which I have also made to several of the Public Schools in the Cities of Ottawa and Toronto, has convinced me that the progress which we have made of late years in educational affairs has been of a substantial and enduring character.

The following reply was received from the Secretary of the Board :

I have the honour to acknowledge on behalf of the Board of Public School Trustees, Town of Goderich, your communication of the 19th June, and in reply beg to say that it was laid before the last meeting, when it was resolved that it be acknowledged with thanks. Also, the hope was expressed that you will always have occasion to express yourself in as favourable a manner with reference to the work of the Board of Trustees and its officials.

IV. Communications to the Journal.

1. SCHOOL VACATIONS.

To the Editor of the Journal of Education.

SIR,—I have noticed for some time past what a desire exists in some quarters to have the Midsummer Holidays extended at the expense of the Easter Holidays. I hope this will not be done. If the Minister of Education and his advisers see fit to extend the Midsummer Holidays to the same length as the High School Holidays, we Public School Teachers will, of course, have no objections, but rather than have the Easter week taken from us, I, for one, would much prefer the present arrangement. It is very pleasant and convenient to have a week's release in the middle of what would otherwise be a long six months' term; and as Good Friday is a legal holiday any way, and must remain so, it takes only four school days to make up the week, and for the matter of four days it would be a pity to deprive the teachers and pupils of the privilege they now enjoy at Easter.

Yours very truly,
JAMES LAWSON.

Mallorytown, Aug. 18, 1876.

2. GREAT WANT OF SCHOOL OUT-PREMISES.

We would invite the earnest attention of Public School Inspectors to the great inconvenience caused by the neglect of Trustees to provide suitable out-premises for Schools, as specified in the following letter. The writer but speaks of an almost universal want throughout the various Counties :—

"To the Editor of the Journal of Education.

"HAMILTON, August 8th, 1876.

"DEAR SIR,—I would respectfully beg to draw your attention to a matter in connection with our country schools which requires a prompt and effectual remedy : I refer to the want of those necessary conveniences in the way of out-houses. Although the School Law provides that these shall be erected, there are no particular specifications given ; and the consequence is that many Boards of Trustees, as niggardly with their labour as they are of their cash, comply with the letter while they break the spirit of the law, and in a great many cases disregard it altogether. Some knock a few boards together almost in the worst manner possible—leaning against a fence, or in any other way that will save them the trouble and leave the place without doors or anything else, such as the common deencies of life require. The consequence of all this is, that young girls who are obliged to go to the country as Teachers endure a very serious amount of suffering and danger of illness. What makes the matter worse is, that a great many of the farm-houses are utterly without any pretence of the same necessary accommodation. This matter is spoken of by female country Teachers as the greatest evil they have to endure.

"I have two sisters who have taught in country schools since last New Year, and they both came home at the beginning of the present vacation seriously unwell from the above causes, and have hardly recovered yet ; and this is the principal reason that I have thus written you. I was advised to take this step by our family physician, who says that the matter is fraught with dangerous con-

sequences to the health of any teacher, and that he felt sure that you would apply an immediate and effectual remedy.

"I think myself that every country school ought to be provided with three closets—one for boys, one for girls, and the third for the teacher, which latter should be provided with a lock and key. It is needless to remind you what a state closets are in to which a number of persons have access. There is no person who will see to those of country schools being kept in a state of cleanliness. Some of the male pupils in these country schools are as much as twenty-one years of age. Trusting you will excuse me for the liberty I have taken in thus addressing you, and that you will kindly take into consideration the feelings and health of the female teachers throughout the province,

"I am, &c.,
"W. H. T."

3. JAMES BYRON DIXON, M.A.

Late Principal of Peterboro' Collegiate Institute.

James Byron Dixon, late Principal of the Peterboro' Collegiate Institute, was born in Wicklow, Ireland, August 12th, 1833, and died at Peterboro', July 9th, 1876, at the age of forty-three. When a mere youth he attended the Normal School, Dublin, and obtained a first-class certificate when but sixteen years of age. As a student, he was remarkably diligent and conscientious. Having taught school successfully for a short time in his native land, he emigrated with his father's family to Canada, where he immediately resumed the profession of teaching, and continued in it for two or three years. Being ambitious and eager to advance his educational interests, he went to Victoria College, Cobourg. On leaving college he obtained the Head-mastership of the Brighton Grammar School, which he held for upwards of two years, giving general satisfaction. He next went to Colborne, where for a period of nearly twelve years he met with eminent success as a teacher, raising the standing of the school to a high state of efficiency. In 1868 he obtained the Principalship of the Peterboro' Grammar School, as it was then called, and before long, under his able and judicious management, the Grammar School became a Collegiate Institute.

As a teacher, he exhibited great tact, energy, and enthusiasm, and he made his pupils feel that they ought to work. Being kind and courteous to his pupils, he was in return greatly admired and respected by them, as shown by numerous beautiful presents received by him. He was a good classical scholar and an excellent mathematician.

His explanations were concise, clear, and easily understood, and he had a plain, fascinating and cheerful style of questioning, which gained and kept the attention and interest awake. The dull eye brightened, the listless and careless became interested and eager to answer as the full, clear voice of Mr. Dixon was heard. It seemed natural for him to teach, and when in health it was always a pleasure.

O. S. Fowler, the phrenologist, when on a lecturing tour through Canada, examined his head, and after telling him that he had worked his brain hard for ten years, said that he would make a good teacher, preacher or lawyer. Mr. Dixon was unassuming, genial, kind and obliging, almost to a fault. I have often seen him stop to talk to a child in the street and go away, leaving the little one feeling happier for having been thus noticed and kindly spoken to.

He died a martyr to overwork. In addition to the labour and duties of the Institute, he undertook to teach private pupils and classes, and also write and deliver lectures and speeches. His lectures were characterized by originality and sound sense.—*Con.*

V. University Education in Ontario.

1. TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

REVISED CURRICULUM FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR MATRICULATION.

Candidates entering at the junior or senior matriculation must have completed the fifteenth year of their age.

All candidates entering at the junior matriculation examination must take the Pass subjects in classics, mathematics, English history, and geography, except that candidates who intend pursuing any of the Honour Courses (other than Classics) may substitute French and German for Greek.

The examinations for senior matriculation (both Pass and Honours) will be held at the same time as the ordinary examination of undergraduates in this faculty.

The ordinary annual examinations for junior matriculation (both Pass and Honours) will commence about the third week in June, and notice of the precise time will be given by advertisement in the first week of January.

Supplemental examinations for matriculation will be held in the latter part of September, at which those who were rejected at the