

there were specimens of text books, a collection of newspapers, and a large number of natural history specimens. The exhibit was, on the whole, far beyond what most people could expect. It may be of interest to make the following extract from the *Pennsylvania School Journal* in regard to the educational progress of Brazil:—

"Brazil has made great advances in education within a few years. In the strong language of a patriotic Brazilian, 'the present Emperor, Dom Pedro, has abolished both ignorance and slavery.' A system of elementary instruction has been established throughout all the provinces of the empire. It is partly supported by the central and partly by the local authorities. The attendance at the schools is rapidly increasing. An efficient system of inspection has been adopted. Teachers are at first employed on trial, but after five years of satisfactory service, they become teachers for life, and no one can be forced from his position without being convicted of some grave offence in the courts or before high officers entrusted with the investigation of charges of the kind. The school-houses generally have teachers' houses connected with them. All teachers receive at first \$400 a year, but after a certain length of time spent in teaching, the salary is largely increased, and at the end of thirty years of service a teacher can retire on his salary as a pension. Similar branches are taught in the schools of Brazil as in the schools in this country, and in addition all the girls are taught sewing.

"The present enlightened ruler of Brazil has not only provided a system of elementary instruction for his people, but he has established a large number of institutions for secondary and higher education. Even technical education is receiving considerable attention."

SWITZERLAND.—This little Republic made a very large and creditable exhibit in proportion to the size of the country, indicating the great attention paid to education. There were maps, drawings of school materials for object lessons, consisting of minerals, seeds, woods, wings of birds, &c.; exhibits of kindergartens, orphan asylums, free schools for apprentices, industrial schools, houses of refuge, literary institutions, &c. Some of the maps, charts and globes exhibited were very superior in mechanical execution, as well as in general accuracy.

BELGIUM.—This country made a creditable exhibit, having a school house in the space allotted to her in the Main Building. There was a large exhibit of natural history specimens, and a good collection of apparatus. The system of public instruction is a very efficient one, and the plan of inspecting schools is said to be one of the best in the world.

A Literary Curiosity.

An Inspector has contributed the following letter received by him some years ago, and which, we think, merits a place in our columns.—[EDITOR.]

—, April 1st, A. D. 1874.
Ontario.

Hon. Mr. —, M. A., County Inspector of public schools:—

DEAR

SIR

Perhaps I should beg your pardon for presuming to address you, but, on the receipt of

your letter to the Secretary of the 21st he desired that I should in return endeavor to represent to you an answer to what you kindly requested of him to delineate, & being conscious of my incapacity of fulfilling the responsibility which you implied I am sure your kind heart will look over any mistakes on the person's part who address you I shall in the following autographical topic give you a brief outline of my history concerning the profession of which I am at present occupied in. I emigrated from the Co of Lanark near the town of Perth in the year 1871 to commence school teaching as my intended profession during an interval in the term of life, my motives that estranged me so far from my native land was viz. being acquainted with a W. M. Missionary that was laboring on the ——— mission, emphatically requested me to commence a course of labors in the back woods, so I ventured, & holding a second Class with honors under the Old County Board in the Co of Lanark at the time, when arriving at Renfrew I remained as a candidate while the Board was sitting and obtained a second until annulled under the former law and with that certificate I have taught school for three years on the borders of Renfrew Co surrounding ——— and intending to resign the profession the year before I came to this new field of labor and go back to my own County, the people of the District flattered me so much to undertake a school in the place already mentioned, that I thought I would not be doing them justice by excluding their hospitality & proffered items, & reluctantly I was let take leave of Renfrew jurisdiction I am going on my second year in this school and sometimes I feel almost discouraged to persevere any longer in the intellectual field of knowledge by not experiencing an Inspector's visit upwards of one year and three months.

I wrote to Mr. ——— shortly after my entrance in the school about the government instituted, discipline, furniture, Locality, &c. &c. &c. and certificate which I possess (I see in the last ——— he granted me a third) whether I am capable of it or not I cannot surmise. Mr. ——— expressed an injunction in his letter to me that he would pay a visit to this school in the month of May but I was sincerely disappointed, and entertained every prospect that he would confer a visit sometime during the year, but was foiled in all my imaginations. . .

DEAR

SIR: could I venture to appeal to you for the privilege of having the honor of a visit from you I know the roads are disagreeable even in the best part of the season, and the country very, very, backward and not likely accustomed to the cottages we have here, even in the humblest hamlet you will find hospitable hearts No doubt you will find it all very strange, however if you could manage it I am certain your visit would not only be a benefit to me, but also to the section at large. The grant which Mr. ——— made to this school (from Poor School fund) I suppose you know was ——— for the first year of which I received ——— at the termination of the first half year, I conjecture the recent change made, with regard to Inspector's confused the opportunity of receiving the annual A'm't at an earlier period than what we will have it I think, though, that I will be greatly favored to know that I will get it sooner than I expected.

My attendance of pupils very small this year, they do not amount to near the num-