

requires to be done in the way of furnishing School requisites. Some of the schools are without either blackboards or maps; while in others the blackboards are too small, and the supply of maps inadequate. One school has an Abacus or Ball Frame, but nothing further in the shape of apparatus is possessed by any of the schools. Three of the School-houses have yards well fenced, and affording good accommodation as play grounds—while others have no such advantages. In one case the ground does not extend more than six feet on either side of the School-house, and the privies are actually erected by the road side and entered from the road. Five of the School-houses are furnished with privies, and four are provided with wells. The Teachers, who have all received certificates from Mr. Hunter, the late District Superintendent, in general exhibit an earnestness in connection with their employment, and a desire as much as possible to increase their own efficiency and that of their schools,—while amongst them, as may be expected, there is considerable diversity as to attainments and ability. In each school the mode of instruction is by classes; while a greater degree of uniformity is needed in the system of classification. 253 scholars between the ages of five and sixteen are on the rolls of the different schools, and there are ten over sixteen; of the entire number somewhat more than two-thirds are boys. The proportion of scholars to the school population is not much over one-third. There is one Free-school in the Township; but I regret to state that it does not indicate that amount of interest, on the part of the parents, which is essential to the efficient working of our school machinery. In the other schools, I could hear of only four free scholars. With a few exceptions, all the pupils either read or are receiving instruction preparatory to reading. There are 214 who write, 155 are in Arithmetic, 77 are learning Geography, and 109 are taught Grammar,—while one is in Elementary Geometry, two are studying Algebra, two Mensuration, 13 French, and 8 Latin. Of the books there exists the same diversity which nearly everywhere prevails. The National Readers are used in six schools—the fifth book but very rarely. In every school the Bible is read. Of Grammar we have National, Lennie's, Murray's, and Kirkham's, while in one school we have no less than four Arithmetics, National, Gouinlock's, Thompson's and Walkingame's. Morse's Geography is in general use, in one School Olney's is also used.

I regret to state, that to an extremely limited extent have the schools of Etobicoke profited by their proximity to the Normal and Model Schools at Toronto. A protracted visit to these institutions, and a careful and minute inspection of their arrangements and procedure, have very much raised them in my estimation, and have fully satisfied my mind that they are immense advantages to the community, and that they are conferring permanent benefits on the country. Their method of instruction, instead of producing that which is merely superficial and showy, as has been so generally alleged, proceeds upon the principle of making the pupil thoroughly understand what is taught him; and the mode of imparting knowledge not only removes the tedium of teaching and the dread of being taught, but expands the mind, by calling forth into action the intellectual powers. In performing the duties of my office, I shall endeavour, as far as practicable, to make the Model School at Toronto the model for the schools of Etobicoke. In some sections the school is opened by singing, a course desirable when it can be pursued. The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland have published a small volume of Sacred Poetry, which has been recommended by the Board of Education for Upper Canada, to be used in Canadian Schools.

*Hamilton Grammar School* was examined on the 2nd instant, on which occasion there was a competition for the prizes, given to the School by John Fisher, Esq., Mayor of the City. The examination gave the greatest satisfaction to those present, who were more numerous than on former occasions, and was highly creditable, both to the Teachers and Scholars.—[Spectator.

*Middlesex County Teachers' Association.*—The second meeting of this Association took place on last Saturday, in the Common School of this Town. A committee of five was appointed to draft a petition to the Legislature, praying for alteration in the School Act. The Association adjourned till the 13th of June next, when the Teachers of the County will assemble to form an Institute in the terms of Dr. Ryerson's late Circular. [Canadian Free Press, May 16th.

*Common Schools in St. Catherines.*—We have great pleasure in announcing that the new School Rooms in Church Street are now completed in a manner highly creditable to the builder, Mr. Dougan. In their construction, every attention has been paid to ventilation, and the comfort and convenience of the pupils. The play grounds are enclosed by a high wall, and are every way adapted for the physical training of the children. This department we understand will receive that attention which we are sorry to say has been too much neglected in our schools throughout the country.—[Constitutional, May 16th.

*Newmarket Common School.*—Mr. Nixon, lately a student at the Normal School, Teacher. The examination was very creditable both to the Teacher and the Pupils, and gratifying to all present. The answers in Geography, Grammar, Mental Arithmetic, Algebra and Ancient History, were given promptly, and in such a manner as showed that these subjects were well understood by the pupils, so far as they had studied them. Some examples in the Double Rule of Three were solved on the blackboard by the new method with great facility. About a dozen were examined in the Elements of the first book of Euclid. Their answers evinced that they had mastered the definitions, postulates axioms, &c., pretty thoroughly, while the demonstration of several propositions showed that they understood how to apply them. The Grammar School in this village, opened last December, is in a very flourishing condition.—[Communicated.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

*Owens' College, Manchester.*—In 1846 the late Mr. John Owens left a splendid bequest, amounting to about £100,000 for the purpose of founding a College in Manchester, and the trustees have now published a report, containing a detailed account of the general character and plan of the institution, in pursuance of the directions of the testator. It is recommended that the subjects of instruction should include classical literature, mathematics, natural philosophy, logic, moral and mental philosophy, history of political philosophy, and the English language and literature; with the addition, as needed, of chemistry, various branches of natural history, physiology, and with a special view to commercial education, book-keeping, the geography of commercial products, the history and progress of arts and manufactures, and the general principles of commercial jurisprudence. The six more important branches of knowledge are to be confined to as many professors, while the modern languages, book-keeping, and other commercial studies, may be entrusted to occasional teachers and lecturers. The salaries of the professors, it is proposed, should not at first exceed two-thirds of the expected annual income of the trust fund (£2,000,) or £1,700, exclusive of £200 addition to one of the professors, as principal, and of the remuneration of occasional teachers. The committee think it desirable that the Owens' College should be placed in connection with the University of London; but, at the same time they invite attention to the important subject of the establishment in Manchester of a university, conferring its own degrees without resort to the metropolitan university.

*Munificent Bequest.*—The late Mr. Allan Glen, of Glasgow, (Scotland,) has bequeathed the "greater part of his fortune, amounting to £20,000," for the endowment of two schools at Glasgow—one for fifty boys, who are to receive clothes, books, &c.; the other for an industrial school for girls; and both to be "free from all sectarian trammels."

*Union of the Aberdeen Universities.*—On Thursday last, a preliminary meeting of several of the most influential of the citizens, called by the Lord Provost, was held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of preparing some suggestions on the important subject of an union of the Aberdeen Universities, to be submitted to the Lord Rectors and the Senatus of both Colleges. It was unanimously resolved that a memorial should be transmitted to the Earl of Ellesmere, Lord Rector of King's College, and presented to Mr. Thompson Gordon, Lord Rector of Mareschal College, and that copies of it should be sent to the Senatus of the Universities.—*Aberdeen Herald.*

## UNITED STATES.

*The School System of Iowa.*—The School System of Iowa, like that of the new States, is based upon the grant of lands, and upon the per cent. of all lands sold in the State of the government of the United States. These consist of every sixteenth section in each township, or 640 acres of the 500,000 acres granted by Congress in 1841; and of five per cent. on all sales of public lands in the State, by authority of the general government to which the Legislature of Iowa have added the property of persons by dying intestate, and without heirs, and the proceed of military exemptions and penal fines in the several counties. Such are the school funds of the State for Common Schools.

*Educating Indians.*—By an act recently passed, the State of New-York has appropriated the annual sum of \$1,000, for the education of ten Indian youths, for three years, in the Normal School, the next term of which commences on the 13th of May.

*Female Medical College.*—The Legislature of Pennsylvania has chartered a College for the Medical education of Females, to be located in Philadelphia. The act of incorporation confers on the institution all the privileges enjoyed by any other medical school in that State.