

LOCAL ITEMS.

McGill Normal School.—Dr. McGregor reports as follows: About the middle of November last, I nominated myself a committee of one to see to the improvement of our N. S. Library. I wrote first to the Education Department at Quebec, and received promptly a few books.

I thought many of our old students would be willing to help. I therefore wrote to a large number of them,—generally asking for a book or a dollar—and awaited the result. One dollar came the precursor of a long line. Twos then came, and fives, and tens from our lady teachers, and to-day, I have received from one gentleman, an old student, twenty-five dollars; another has fifty dollars ready for me. The procession of books was headed by a beautiful set of 15 vols. from a college graduate.

These were followed, through nearly all the numbers, by four-in-hands, unicorns, tandems and single volumes.

I asked for help from a good many outside those directly connected with the Normal School. One publisher, in Toronto, to whom I applied, sent to my amazement (and delight of course), 60 volumes.

This, satisfactory as it is, is only an interim report for I have still to hear from a good many who will respond to this indirect application.

I have therefore reported progress, and granted myself leave to sit again.

But, this report, notice,—whatever you like to call it, would be very incomplete were I to omit reference to the kind words, and expressions of good will to the school that have accompanied these gifts. These have been so numerous and so hearty that we have been much encouraged and cheered by them, and we consider this by no means the least good that has resulted.

Clarendon, Pontiac Co.—A township remote from any literary centre, deserves credit for the interest taken in education by its inhabitants. Besides Shawville Academy it has in operation from ten to eleven months a year, a model school, and twelve elementary schools. The commissioners are ready to receive, and willing to adopt measures proposed for the improvement of our educational system. They also exert themselves to secure teachers of merit and experience, several of whom are trained teachers holding the higher grades of diplomas from McGill Normal School.

As fast as the primitive school-houses require to be re-built, substantial and suitable buildings are erected in their places, furnished with the modern desks, maps and other conveniences necessary to a well appointed school-house.

Inspector McGregor says:—"The Commissioners of each municipality that I have visited adopted a list of text-books from the authorised list to be introduced gradually into their schools: the Course of Study they have also adopted but in many cases have neglected to instruct their secretaries to forward the adopted list and their application for copies of the course of study to the Department of Public Instruction. Many of the municipalities have been gradually changing the old books for the adopted list during the past six months and will commence the new year with the adopted list