

spector, and the presentation of prizes by W. R. Dempsey, Esq., Reeve of the Township and Warden of Prince Edward, followed. About 120 beautifully bound volumes were distributed, which had been purchased by funds contributed by the Warden and Messrs. Nightingale, Johnson and Bonter, of the Municipal Council of the Township, and J. Sprague and W. Delong, Esqs., each having subscribed five dollars. The proceedings were brought to a close by brief speeches from the examiners, Dr. Nash, Wm. Anderson, Esq., and the Warden, with the usual votes of thanks.—*Nation*.

2. COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION AT SMITHVILLE.

The trial of township competitive examinations, recently made in the Township of Grantham, and successfully carried out, has now been repeated in the Township of Grimsby, with very encouraging results to those who have had the responsibility of initiating and conducting it. On Friday, the 19th ultimo, the pupils from ten schools assembled at Smithville for the purpose of engaging in a friendly contest for the foremost place in the honour-list, and nothing could exceed the eagerness of the young aspirants to scholastic fame, which was in no small degree shared by their respective teachers, who were present. From the spirit displayed by the pupils, and the interest taken by the respectable gathering of visitors, there is every reason to hope that this system of competition will, if continued, be productive of very desirable results, in the increased regularity of attendance at the schools—the absence of which has been severely felt hitherto—in the increased demand for experience and efficiency in the teacher in preference to cheapness, and the general awakening of interest by parents and trustees, in the condition and progress of their schools. The examination lasted through the day, and was almost wholly conducted in writing, the examiners being J. B. Gray, Esq., Principal of the Central School of this city; Jacob Hipple, F. H. Moyer, S. S. and W. H. Moyer, of Clinton; and Miss Baily, of St. Anns; Messrs Reid and Morse, of the Smithville High Schools also shared in the work. The four rooms of the building, having been placed at the disposal of the Inspector, he was enabled to announce the result of the examination and distribute the prizes at four o'clock, after which the chair being taken by A. Morse, Esq., many of the visitors expressed in emphatic terms their approval of the system and their satisfaction with its results. The following resolution approving the action of the Township Council, in granting a sum of money for prizes, was also unanimously adopted:—

"We, the visitors at the competitive examination of the Public Schools of the Township of Grimsby, held this day at Smithville, desire to give expression to our feelings of entire satisfaction with the impartial and satisfactory manner in which said examination has been conducted, and would respectfully recommend, in the interest of education in this township, a continuance of the work so successfully inaugurated by the Inspector, Mr. J. B. Somerset, by the aid of our Municipal Council. We feel, also, that the thanks of the public are due to the able staff of examiners, who have conducted the examination."—*St. Catharines' Journal*.

3. TORONTO CITY SCHOOLS.

The following letter on the condition of the Toronto City Schools by the gentlemen charged with the distribution of the Ketchum Grant was, by resolution, inserted on the minutes of the Board of Trustees:—

To the Board of School Trustees of the City of Toronto:—

GENTLEMEN,—Having been appointed by the Directors of the U. C. Bible and Tract Societies to discharge the duty of distributing the Jesse Ketchum Bequest among the most deserving Pupils of the Schools of Toronto, we cannot, at the conclusion of our labours, refrain from expressing to the Board the heartfelt pleasure which we experienced in visiting these Schools. The generally excellent condition of the School-rooms, the air of neatness and comfort which prevailed, the order and discipline which were everywhere apparent, and the bright and cheerful groups of children which were gathered in the larger School-rooms to meet us, rendered the duty which we feared would be fatiguing, if not monotonous, to be delightful and instructive.

We devoted two entire days to visit the eighteen Schools, which are situated in different parts of the city and suburbs, and under the control of the Board. In them all, though under so many different teachers, we noticed the same spirit of subordination and state of efficiency, &c., as that to which we have referred.

Many incidents of a pleasing character occurred during our visits; and many suggestive facts came under our notice during these two days, which isolated visits to Public Schools would never have brought out. We had the rare advantage, which a systematic and

continuous visit to the whole of the Schools at once gave us, of comparing one School with the other; of noting the general condition of each of the Schools; the effect of the prevalence or absence of order and discipline in the daily life of the School; the tone and *esprit* of the pupils; the character of the influence which the teacher exercised in the school; and the effect of that aesthetic culture (even of an elementary character,) which it is to be regretted is not always regarded as an essential part of school training, even by otherwise efficient teachers. We noted, therefore, with the more pleasure, evidence of its existence in the Schools generally, as indicated by the personal neatness and taste of the scholars; the presence of flowers in the School-rooms, either in pots or in bouquets; of mottoes, and other pleasing decorations; or musical skill, and by the marked exhibition of courtesy and politeness on the part of the pupils on our visit to their School-rooms. This was the more observable in the girls' departments.

During our visit, we took occasion not only to address a few brief words of counsel to the pupils generally, so as to impress upon their minds the necessity for the practice of those sterling virtues of punctuality, diligence and good conduct, which the prizes were designed to stimulate and reward; but we sought to make the presentation the occasion of a direct practical application, in the case of each individual recipient, by an additional word of advice.

We were favoured with the presence of individual trustees in many of the Schools. We cannot, however, speak too highly of the admirable arrangements made by Mr. Hughes, the indefatigable Inspector, by which we were enabled to carry out the programme of distribution with punctuality and satisfaction to ourselves.

Taking a brief yet comprehensive view of the Schools, as we did, and of the extensive machinery and appliances for popular education now available in Toronto, we cannot but be deeply impressed with the immense power for good which these Schools possess. Though costing less than the police force, it is to them, under the blessing of God, we must look for a potent means of the prevention of crime in our midst. By their establishment and maintenance, hundreds of children, which would otherwise be left to the demoralizing education of the street, and brought up as city Arabs, are carefully trained in the elements of useful knowledge, and brought continuously under a wholesome discipline, and a humanizing and elevating influence of a powerful character.

Our two days' visit to the Public Schools so impressed us with their excellence and value to the City, that we have felt ourselves impelled thus to express to the Board of Trustees our views and impression on the subject.

We have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Very truly and sincerely yours,

J. GEORGE HODGINS,

Hon. Secretary, U. C. Bible Society.

A. T. McCORD, }
JOHN GILLESPIE, } Members of the U. C. Bible and Tract Society.

P. S.—We were also highly pleased and gratified by our visit to the Collegiate Institute and Model School.

4. GODERICH SCHOOLS.

After a recent visit to the County of Huron and the Goderich Schools, the following letter was addressed to the Board of Public School Trustees of the Town by the Deputy Minister of Education:

SIR,—I desire gratefully to acknowledge the courtesy of the Goderich Board of Public School Trustees in deputing its Chairman and other members, with the Inspector, to accompany me on a visitation of the schools of that town, on Monday, the 12th instant.

It may be gratifying to the members of the Board to know that that visit afforded me the liveliest satisfaction, not only in witnessing the results of the efforts which have been so systematically put forth by the Board to afford school accommodation for the youth of Goderich, but also in observing the appropriate architectural style of the buildings and the tidy appearance of the pupils in the several schools of the town.

Although I had necessarily no opportunity of testing the attainments of the pupils, yet from the appearance of general intelligence which characterized each group of children which I saw, and from the admirable discipline which appeared to prevail in the schools, I am sure that Goderich has reason to congratulate itself on the present condition of its Public Schools. This I feel persuaded is due no less to the zeal and diligence of J. R. Miller, Esq., the Inspector, than to the ability and devotion of the teachers employed by the Board.

A pleasant visit which I made to the High School of Goderich afforded me also an opportunity of witnessing the results of the labours of its indefatigable Head Master, Mr. Strong. The intelli-