

The chief feature of list of "Candidates in order of Merit" is the high standard obtained by the country academies. This is one of the effects which those who extended the old limits of this examination hoped to see, but they scarcely ventured to expect that that effect would be realized in such a marked way and in so short a time. It will be noticed that Inverness Academy takes the fifth, eighth and thirteenth places, Huntingdon, the fourth place.

The work connected with the various departments of the examination has become very heavy, and it is to be hoped that the minor regulations, both old and new, will be rigorously observed in order to prevent irregularity or delay.

The following special reports give details concerning the majority of the subjects. Incompleteness is due to want of opinion regarding the English branches examined at Lennoxville.

*Dictation.*—The improvement in this subject is undeniable, if a comparison is made between the results of the recent examination and those of dates not very remote. It used to be a rare thing to find a paper with less than four mistakes, even when the extract selected was less searching than that of the present year. The examiner is glad to be able to state that more than fifty of the papers just examined reach the degree of excellence mentioned above. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that this subject seems to be carefully heeded in certain centres and neglected in others. Long series of candidates from various schools pass creditably; the failures occur, for the most part, in batches, and convey their own lesson.

*Classics.*—As regards the classical examination, I can speak of general improvement, as far as my work is concerned. The questions in Latin and Greek accidence were more correctly answered, and the classical foundation in our schools seems to be more securely laid than it was some years back. Some of the papers were really creditable, and the translations were decidedly less slipshod than they have been. The spelling of Greek words also shows decidedly more accuracy. Things, however, are not yet what we hope to see them, and I would touch on a few points that call for improvement:

(1) Candidates should be careful to see that they understand what an examiner wants. It not infrequently happens that a candidate wastes time and trouble in giving information which is