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JOURNAL OF EDUCATION

MONTREAL (LOWER CANADA) AUGUST, 1862.

Examinations and Distributions of Prizes.

Much space was taken up in our last with reports of the examinations held in several educational institutions; we shall now lay before the readers of the *Journal* a short account of what has taken place since, regretting that we are obliged to omit many interesting particulars for want of room.

At the Laval University, and at many other institutions including the Seminaries of Montreal and Quebec and the St. Mary's College of Montreal, the proceedings occupied but one sitting, and were almost restricted to a public distribution of prizes. A few days before the distribution, the students of the Seminary of Quebec, who had been undergoing a course of military training, were reviewed in the college yard by His Excellency the Governor General, and the precision with which they skirmished, charged with the bayonet and performed other difficult evolutions elicited from Lord Monck and the military gentlemen present, words of high commendation.

The examination of the students of the Montreal College took place in the spacious edifice situated near the mountain and occupied since the old building in Griffintown was leased for the accommodation of the troops. The new college is built on the site of the old manor-house, formerly known as the *Fort des Messieurs*, of which only two small towers on the wayside remain. One of these contains the remains of several neophytes, conquests made by the missionaries in the early days of the colony; and the visitor is still shown curious epitaphs commemorative of the virtues of those interred there. In consequence of some temporary arrangements, the Examination took place in the large dormitory, above the chapel. The exercises were enlivened by vocal and instrumental music, and included a dissertation in which several speakers took part, and three interesting lectures with illustrative experiments in natural history and chemistry as applied to the arts.—The distribution of prizes at the St. Mary's College drew together a numerous auditory, among whom were judges, examiners, the Hon. the Superintendent of Public Instruction, distinguished educators and many others who had attended the examination previously noticed. The Band of the 16th Regiment, under the direction of Sgr. de Angelis, performed several choice selections and Canadian

melodies to the evident delight of all present. Among those who evinced great proficiency and talent, Messrs. Falardeau, Legendre and Dubreuil are, we think, especially worthy of mention.

The examination at the St. Francis College, Eastern Townships, was well attended and every thing went off very successfully. The languages, mathematics, book-keeping, drawing and the English branches had been taught with brilliant results; and in declaiming, the skill evinced by many students gave unmistakable proofs of close application. The number of students had greatly increased and stood at 117 for the whole year, while the boarding establishment in connection with the college was carefully managed.

At St. Hyacinthe the examination at the College was conducted under the auspices of the Hon. Mr. Sicotte, who, towards the conclusion of the exercises, delivered an address in which he insisted on the importance of classical education, and the advantage to the country of extending its benefits to as many as possible. He was followed by C. S. Cherrier, Esq., member of the Council of Public Instruction, who spoke with his accustomed facility and eloquence. The awarding of the prizes was preceded by a dialogue entitled *Naples et l'Italie*, in which the Rev. Mr. Raymond gave through the agency of some of the pupils an interesting account of his travels through the beautiful country which formed the subject of this exercise. The College of Nicolet opened its examination with a spirited competition for the prizes that were to be awarded to eloquence. The most distinguished persons among the auditory having been appointed to judge of the respective merits of the candidates, Mr. L. Blondin was declared winner of the first prize and Mr. E. Gerin-Lajoie of the second. At the College of Ste. Therese de Blainville the distribution of the prizes was preceded by very well conducted musical exercises in which forty or fifty voices took part. Mr. Chatillon had charge of this class. No public examination took place at the College of St. Ann in consequence of the death of the Very Rev. Mr. Gauvreau, Grand Vicar. The examination at the College of L'Assomption was conducted according to the system which has been long established, but is now falling into disuse: visitors questioned the pupils, and theses and recitations were listened to. The performances of Messrs. Z. Mayrand and D. Jobin are highly spoken of by a correspondent who was present. Acting upon a happy idea, the professors have made the history of the college itself a subject of study; and we believe the principle might be advantageously extended to all institutions devoted to learning, in each of which a record should be kept and the scholars made familiar with its contents. An essay, by Mr. Dausereau, was circulated among the gentlemen present, and, we are assured, pronounced an excellent sketch of the history of the College of L'Assomption.

The College of Three Rivers, recently visited by His Excellency the Governor General, has been only three years in existence, yet it is attended by 110 students, who form six classes. The progress was most satisfactory. The industrial Colleges of Terrebonne, Sherbrooke and St. Michel de Bellechasse dismissed their pupils for the summer vacation as usual. At the College of Rigaud two days were spent in the examination, and many persons attended to witness the proceedings. Rev. Mr. Fabre delivered the farewell address. The industrial and agricultural College of Rimonski, which for several years past had been in a very embarrassed and unpromising position, seems to have acquired renewed vigor under the able management of the Rev. Mr. Potvin, the Principal, and we learn with pleasure that it is intended to annex a model-farm to the school. The examination was well attended and its results