

tating his examination of their proficiency, besides spending considerable time with the papers. In all these he had under-rated rather than over-rated their marks, and this had been done designedly, in order that no pupil should rank higher than he or she deserved. At the same time he was anxious to give all their true merit. He referred to the specimens of writing handed in, expressing his great pleasure in witnessing the proficiency in this art, so necessary in life, characterising its acquirement in terms which proved that the pupils had made satisfactory progress in this direction. After adverting to the advantages of a good handwriting, he followed by combating the ideas that the competitive examinations were injurious in the school-room, expressing an entirely contrary opinion, on the one ground that the influence thus exerted on the pupils themselves was frequently sufficient to keep them more attentive and diligent than they otherwise would be. He had also witnessed the examination at the schools on Thursday, and expressed himself highly pleased with what he saw, and hoped that the boys coming to him at the ensuing term would do credit to their teachers and the schools from which they came.

REV. F. H. MARLING, Pastor of the Bond street Congregational Church, expressed his pleasure in taking part in the proceedings of the meeting, and claimed for himself and others, who had but seldom an opportunity of expressing their feelings, the warmest interest in the Common Schools of Canada. The Common School system of the country was dear to the mass of the people. He had noticed with much pain that there was a falling off in the higher divi-