

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO FOR THE YEAR 1879 (printed by order of the Legislative Assembly). Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson, 1881.

(Continued from page 138.)

THE returns given of the salaries of teachers are not in the most satisfactory shape. We are left to find out for ourselves, for instance, the average salary paid to teachers throughout the Province, also that paid to male teachers. The average salary paid to teachers for the Province was \$314; in 1878 it was \$311—increase, \$3.

AVERAGE SALARIES IN 1879.

	Males.	Females.
Counties	\$383	\$249
Cities	662	296
Towns	616	270

We fear that these figures, which we extract from the Report, are not thoroughly reliable, for if we multiply them by the number of teachers in each case we get:—

Total am't of salaries for counties	\$1,725,788
“ “ “ cities ..	217,618
“ “ “ towns ..	220,000

Total \$2,163,406

While the Report shews:—

Total am't of salaries for counties	\$1,660,072
“ “ “ cities ..	203,238
“ “ “ towns ..	209,512

Total \$2,072,822

So that the statement of the average salaries shews an excess of \$90,584 over the actual numbers given in the Report. Now we are very desirous of seeing the salaries of teachers increased, but let the increase be real, and not one cooked in the calculations of the Education Department. If such blunders as we have pointed out mar the

pages of Mr. Crooks's Report, we may ask of what use is the book, and the country may seriously consider whether it is not paying too dear for its whistle to give a fat salary to a Minister who allows such mistakes to mar his official utterances. The return of the religious denomination of teachers has no place in the present Report, and its loss will not be felt, for in a country whose school system has the broad basis of Christianity for its foundation, to the ignoring of denominationalism, it is no matter what religious sect the teacher belongs to so long as he performs his duties in a Christian spirit. The total number of teachers with first-class Provincial certificates was 253—increase, 43; second class, 1,601—increase, 192; third class, 3,836—increase, 68. There is an odd fluctuation from year to year in the numbers who hold these various grades. In 1878 there was a decrease of 40 in the first class, an increase of 105 in the second, and a decrease of 22 in the third.

Why should there be a decrease of 40 in the number of first class in 1878, and an increase of 43 in 1879? We can only account for it by the blundering that has so often characterized the examination work of the Central Committee, in the failure to gauge accurately either the store of knowledge or the power of using it of those to be examined. Let us hope the change the Minister proposes to make in the composition of that Committee will alter all this for the better.

While the information is ample regarding the granting of certificates even to the extent of giving the names of those who received certificates of the first and second class, that about the granting of interim certificates is very meagre and unsatisfactory. All that we are told is that 353 were granted in counties, 2 in cities, and 19 in towns—total, 474, a