

but there is reason to believe that their places are being not unworthily filled. In any case, we have no present means of retaining the services of Teachers whose talents and acquirements can command a higher remuneration in other departments of labour, or in the same department elsewhere. When the people shall see it to be their interest to supplement the very liberal Provincial Grant by larger and more promptly paid local appropriations, we shall not only have fewer occasions to regret the retirement of efficient Teachers, but the best ground to hope for a large addition of devoted men and women to the ranks of the profession.

#### RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION OF TEACHERS.

The 844 Teachers employed during the last Summer Term were distributed among the different denominations as follows:—

Episcopalians,	163,	Baptists,	203,
Roman Catholics,	203,	Congregationalists,	7,
Presbyterians,	153,	Others, or not reported,	9.
Methodists,	106,		

#### TEACHERS, MALE AND FEMALE.

Of 804 Teachers engaged in the first half of the past year, 422 were males, and 382 females; and in the Summer Terms, of 844 Teachers, 424 were males, and 420 females. It thus appears, that while the number of male Teachers was nearly the same in both Terms, there were not less than 38 more females employed in summer than in winter. This has been generally the practice hitherto, and the cause is pretty obvious. In winter, the Schools, particularly in the rural districts, are attended by boys of such advanced years that their usefulness in the field and elsewhere prevents their attendance in summer. This arrangement, requiring not unaturally the services of more male teachers in winter, readily accounts for a corresponding lessened number of females, who, even though as well qualified in other respects, are not so well fitted as men to undergo the hardships of winter life in the country, or the long and fatiguing walks which the custom of boarding round necessarily involves. Till this custom is discontinued, and the Province becomes more thickly inhabited, the services of men are sure to be in constant demand, especially as winter teachers; and it will therefore be well for all concerned in promoting education, to try and get a larger number than usual of young men of good habits and respectable attainments to attend the training School, and, by study, observation and practice, to prepare to enter creditably upon this useful field of labour. Females teacher will still be required for both summer and winter work, and in greater numbers as improved attainments shall have increased their popularity, and when graded schools in the cities, towns and villages, shall render their services at once the cheapest and the best.

#### PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE.

The amount drawn from the Treasury in Payment of Teachers' salaries in the winter Term, was \$40,162.17, or an increase of \$1,514.29 over the corresponding Term of the previous year. In the summer Term, the sum required for the like object, was \$41,032.29, against \$41,023.62, or the small increase of \$8.67.

The other expenses of the Department for the year will be found detailed, as usual, in Table G of the Appendix, page 38, amounting in all to \$93,306.92, as against \$91,373.92 in 1865, or an increase of \$1,933.

#### LOCAL EXPENDITURE.

It is some satisfaction to note, along with the increased expenditure on the part of the Province in the winter Terms a nearly corresponding increase from local sources, or \$52,427.94, as against \$51,060.10, or an increase of \$1,038.88. In the following Term, however, there is found a decrease of \$495.75, the amounts being respectively \$52,427.94 and \$52,923.69. It is proper to observe, notwithstanding, that the local expenditure

exceeds the amount reported to be derived from subscriptions, tuition fees, and assessments being \$103,488.04.

This sum, added to the Provincial expenditure of \$93,306.92, before referred to, together with the grants to the University, the Madras, Denominational, Grammar, and a few other Schools not included in the above, but amounting to \$23,155, makes the total appropriation for educational purposes, from all sources, for the year, \$219,949, exclusive of a large, but unreported cost for new School-houses, repairs, furniture, and apparatus.

#### PUPILS.

The number of Pupils on the Rolls in the first Term of the past year, was 27,809, or an increase of 392 over the corresponding period of 1865. In the summer, the registered attendance was 29,781, or a decrease of 194, thus showing a small increase for the whole year.

It must be remembered, however, that even the largest of these numbers do not represent fully the attendance during the year. The fact is well known, and has been frequently referred to in former Reports, that the pupils do not, as a rule, attend School the whole year round, the younger children going in summer, and the elder in winter, as best suits their convenience. It is plain, therefore, that the School Returns which are made half-yearly, at the close of September and March, cannot embrace the attendance for the entire year; and the difficulty of getting at the exact number is further increased in many instances, by the circumstance, that the School has had two different Teachers within that time. But, however difficult it may be to ascertain the precise attendance, it is certain that a large rate per cent. will have to be added to the number enrolled in either of the Terms, before we can arrive at any thing like a correct estimate of the pupils who have been members of the Schools for longer or shorter periods within the past year. Calculating, therefore, from the best date within reach, I should judge that the number withdrawn from the winter Schools, would be about one fourth of the whole enrolled attendance, or 6,952, which, added to the summer attendance, will give 36,733, as the whole numbers on the Registers of the Common and Superior Schools in 1866. Adding again to these figures, the pupils at the Grammar, Denominational, Madras, and other Schools receiving public aid, and not included in the above enumeration, or about 2,500, and we have 39,233, or about a seventh of our population, as the estimated number at the public Schools in the past year.

#### COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

With a view to still further increase the attendance, as well as to excite a generous emulation amongst the pupils, and create additional interest in their Schools among the people themselves, it was decided last year to try the effect of a Competitive Examination for Prizes, to be open to a limited number of the more advanced pupils from each of the Schools in the County of Montserrat. The idea had originated some time previously with the present Postmaster General, who, with his colleague in the representation, undertook to provide the necessary prizes and otherwise assist in maturing the local arrangements for the examination. Accordingly in the month of April, circulars were issued from this office to all the Teachers in that County, apprizing them of the intended competition, and inviting their co-operation. The result was, that on the 1st August, the day appointed for the trial, 31 pupils, from 9 different Schools, accompanied by their Teachers, parents, and a large number of interested spectators, met in the Mechanics' Institute at Dalhousie, and there, for nearly 8 hours, underwent a searching examination in writing, conducted by the President of the University, the Inspector of Schools for the District, and myself. After a careful scrutiny of the test-papers, the prizes were on the following morning distributed to the successful competitors, in the presence of their friends, short addresses delivered, and the proceedings brought to so successful a termination, that before separating it was re-