

rewards. Little ones had been gladdened with the possession of a beautiful book, looked for, worked for, and then valued the more because handed to them by the Local Superintendent before Schoolmasters, Parents, and Trustees, accompanied with a recital of their remarks and a kind remark into the bargain. These books are read at home, and lent sometimes, therefore we may hope for benefit from their distribution.

REV. J. B. IRVINE, ELDON.—The library books are mostly covered, all labelled and numbered, and are very useful in those sections where they are. I could wish, however, to see more interest taken in the library. The influence, however, which the school libraries of the sections have exerted, is of the most satisfactory and healthy character. I hope all the sections will avail themselves of the facilities afforded them by the Educational Department, of having libraries, and increasing the number of library books. With one exception, prizes are not given in the schools of this township. In the school where they are given, the scholars work hard, there is a healthy rivalry among them, and I hope the Trustees will, ere long, give prizes in every section, to every school.

REV. JOHN VICARS, VERULAM.—Prizes have been distributed in several of the schools, with, I believe, excellent effect; a more regular attendance has, in this way, been secured.

F. OAKLEY, Esq., M. D., BROOK.—Prizes were only given in one school in the township last year, and in that one school their distribution was attended with the most beneficial results.

REV. JAMES FERGUSON, ORO.—Prizes were distributed in four of the schools, and it is to be hoped, we will soon have them in all. There is no doubt they would, in the hands of able teachers, help to foster and maintain a spirit of general emulation and competition, so desirable and necessary for the furtherance of the cause of education. Well selected works to the value of eighty dollars have been added to the township library.

REV. ALEXANDER MACLENNAN, TORONTO.—There was an increase of attendance in all our schools this year. This very desirable change is the result of the active use of several means, some of which cannot be traced out or described; but there is not the least doubt, that the very liberal distribution of prizes which has been made in this township this year, is prominent among the most effectual. Prizes were distributed in each section, and at a township examination besides. The amount thus expended is very considerable, when the extent of the township, the number of its population and children under sixteen, and the attendance is taken into consideration. It was known to the teachers, and thus communicated to all the pupils of the different schools at a very early period in the year, that regular attendance, diligence and good conduct during 1867, would be acknowledged, encouraged and rewarded at the closing examination by awarding valuable prizes. The result was favourable, as some of the usual obstacles to attendance were thus removed.

DANIEL McLEOD, Esq., NELSON.—Five schools have had prizes distributed, and where I have had the opportunity of witnessing the distribution of prizes, it exerted a laudable spirit of emulation among the pupils, and a happy feeling among the parents and spectators.

DAVID ROBERTSON, Esq., M. D., NASSAGAWHYA.—Prizes are given in most of the schools, and seem to do good, by creating a healthful rivalry among the pupils, especially when distributed judiciously. They should be given to those only who have earned them during a certain time: that is, the result should depend on every day's study, dating from the last distribution. The township examination passed off quite satisfactorily, and the people all evinced a strong interest in it. This year another similar examination has been held. This is the third competitive examination for the township; the council seems determined to continue it.

JOHN ASKIN, Esq., TRAFALGAR.—We have had prizes and merit books awarded in many of our schools; this has been productive of good results; it has induced greater regularity of attendance, and more zeal in study on the part of the pupils.

REV. JOHN PORTEOUS, BEVERLEY.—I judge that prizes must be deemed advantageous from the fact of more schools having them distributed every year.

REV. ROBERT GRANT, FLAMBOROUGH, EAST.—Prizes were given in some of the schools, and from all parties interested, I learn that a good effect was produced. I am of opinion that the system of giving prizes is decidedly beneficial.

REV. JOHN LEES, ANCASTER.—There are school libraries in four sections, and in three of these the books are all covered, numbered and labelled; in four sections there are Sabbath School libraries, and there is reason to believe that they are exerting a favourable

influence upon the minds and actions both of parents and children where the books have been carefully read. Prizes procured from the Department in Toronto, have been given to the pupils in five sections, and there are grounds to believe with general satisfaction and good results.

REV. JOHN ARMOUR, BURFORD.—The library books are covered, labelled and numbered, and the regulations are strictly observed. The influence the library exerts must be good in proportion as the books are read; good books, if read, must produce a good effect. The influence of the distribution of prizes, there cannot be a doubt is both great and good. They not only impart edification to the recipient; but they have a great influence to call forth exertion and labor, to make progress, and to form character.

ELI GREGORY, Esq., LOUTH.—There is a splendid Township Library, the works in which are labelled, numbered and distributed in the different school sections. This has had a good influence on the young as well as the old. There was a resolution passed in the Council requiring all Librarians to return their books at least once a year. There have been prizes given in several schools, with good results.

REV. JOHN WILKINSON, NORWICH SOUTH.—I was present at the Otterville examination, when about eight dollars worth of prizes were being distributed in the presence of parents and guardians, with seeming satisfaction to all concerned. I am inclined to think the practice should be more generally observed, and the expense less regarded, for no doubt the effect would be profitable and happy.

REV. JOHN FERGUSON, GREY, MORRIS, &c.—In Grey, the schools are provided with a library, granted by the Municipal Council each Section has about 42 volumes, and they are frequently called for and read by both pupils and parents. The amount of good which would arise from each school being supplied with a proper library is incalculable, and is, moreover, a matter to which sufficient attention has not hitherto been paid.

CYRUS CARROL, Esq., HOWICK.—Prize-books have been distributed in some of the schools, and with very good results. I think I can induce more of the Trustees next year to provide prizes.

REV. MATTHEW BARR, McKILLOP, &c.—The books in all the libraries are covered, numbered and labelled, and where the regulations in regard to libraries are strictly observed, the influence is beneficial and gratifying. In common School Section, No. 2, McKillop, the volumes are open to the whole section, whereas in Union School Section, No. 7, Tuckersmith, the volumes are open only to the pupils. Perhaps it may be owing to this difference that the separate applications for volumes during the year amounted, in the former Section to 418, nearly three times the number of separate applications for volumes in all three Sections having libraries in Tuckersmith, namely, 142. Prizes are distributed according to merit, in most of our schools, and with very beneficial and gratifying results.

JOHN ECKFORD, Esq., BRANT, CARRICK, &c.—The distribution of prizes, which has an excellent effect, is becoming more general; but we still continue, in almost every case, to give smaller books, cards, &c., to all the others, and cheer them onwards to a place in the prize list. This answers more than one good purpose.

CHAS. HARDIE, Esq., MISSOURI WEST.—I have always found under the old system of awarding prizes on the report or decision of the teachers, or by underhand preparatory exercises, dissatisfaction ensued (as too frequently occurred—the children of the teacher's patrons succeeded) therefore, if any method is unobjectionable, it must be founded on the principles recommended by yourself. On a recent occasion, when examining a school and finding the best scholar at the foot of the class, I inquired of the teacher what was the cause, to which he gave the following important information:—"He kept a book to record the marks of merit, good conduct, &c., from one period to another, so that any pupil on receiving the highest mark on any day, had to go to the foot of the class on the following, and no marks could be given to the same pupil until the head place was again attained, and no mark would be given to any pupil, however high the standing in the class, who would make infractions of the rules of the school, by which means the greatest order and improvement prevailed, and hope and every inducement to improve and excel were given to all.

HARRISON THOMPSON, Esq., METCALFE.—The Library appears to create a very good influence in the neighborhood, as all the books have been read by quite a number of persons. In the schools where prizes were distributed, they gave general satisfaction, stimulating a desire in the pupils to strive who would make the best progress in his studies. I am using my influence with the Trustees of every School Section in the Township of Metcalfe to get prize-books for all deserving pupils.