

15th, 16th, 17th, 21st, 28th, 29th. Rain, 1st, 5th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 13th, 23rd, 24th.  
 STRATFORD.—Mill pond frozen, 16th. First sleighing, 20th. Wind storm, 7th, 13th, 25th, 27th, 29th, 30th. Fog, 4th. Snow, 7th, 8th, 15th, 16th, 18th—22nd, 28th—30th. Rain, 5th, 7th, 11th, 14th.  
 HAMILTON.—Wind storms, 15th, 25th, 27th, 30th. Fog, 5th, 22nd, 24th, Snow, 15th, 17th—20th, 22nd, 23rd, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th. Rain, 1st, 2nd, 5th—8th, 11th—14th, 24th.  
 SIMCOE.—Wind storm, 27th. Snow, 15th, 16th, 19th, 27th, 28th. Rain, 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th, 12th. Gloomy month, very few sunny days. Horse disease prevalent, and in many cases fatal. Crops much below the average; hay scarce and dear.  
 WINDSOR.—Lunar halo, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th. Meteor 25th, in N., towards H.; another through auriga towards H. A number of meteors in N. part of heavens 27th. They moved in parallel lines, and in pretty close succession, some above the pole and some below; all moved towards the N. H. Wind storm, 7th, 25th, 27th. Snow, 7th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 28th, 29th. Rain, 2nd, 5th, 11th.

**XIII. Departmental Notices.**

**TRUSTEES' INCOMPLETE RETURNS.**

Some Inspectors complain of the very great incompleteness of many of the school reports received from Trustees of rural sections, and ask what they should do with them? By reference to the reports themselves, Trustees will see that the Inspectors are directed to return to them all incomplete or incorrect reports. The law declares that a School Section shall forfeit its share of the School Fund, should its Trustees fail to furnish the Inspector with a full and satisfactory report yearly and half yearly. It will, therefore, save the Inspectors a good deal of time and trouble, and the Department some delay, if the Inspectors will promptly return to the Trustees all imperfect reports, so as to have each column correctly filled up. Should an Inspector's Reports to this Department be incomplete, they will have to be returned to him so that the desired information may be obtained.

**PRIZE PLANS FOR SCHOOL-HOUSES AND SITES.**

Thirty persons have competed for the prizes which the Chief Superintendent announced in August that he would give for the best interior plans of School-houses, of various dimensions, and for the best block plans, on acre and half acre School sites.

Of these thirty plans, four were of superior merit, in various features, nine were of varying excellence, while seventeen either did not come up to the standard required, or had other palpable defects in them.

Although, strictly speaking, only prizes to the value of \$95 should have been awarded for these plans, yet it was felt that, as so many of them displayed some feature of excellence, an acknowledgment of that excellence should be made. Additional extra prizes were, therefore, awarded by the Chief Superintendent, to the value of \$115, or more than the original amount proposed as prizes.

It is gratifying to note the taste and skill evinced by the various plans which have been sent into the Department, and which the offer of these prizes has been the means of discovering and drawing out among the Inspectors, Teachers, and Masters. It only shows that in our own country we have the taste and talent necessary to aid in the good work of providing for our School Sections neat and comfortable School-houses. There is no reason, therefore, why this skill should not be made available for this purpose. In order to aid in doing so, it is proposed to combine in a few of the prize plans the excellence of all, and have them engraved for insertion in this *Journal*, during the coming year, should the Legislature see fit to make the usual grant for its publication.

We heartily congratulate all parties concerned in this practical "step in advance," designed as it is to promote a most important interest of our Schools.

The following is a list of the plans sent in, with the prizes which have been awarded:—

**PRIZE PLANS OF SCHOOL-HOUSES AND SITES.**

No. 1.—"Education is the bulwark of liberty." First prize for interior, \$25; second prize for block plan, \$15.....	TOTAL \$40
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No. 2.—"Le jour viendra." One prize for interior, and extra for block .....	\$25
— 3.—"Docendo Discimus," No. 1. One prize for interior, and extra for block .....	25
— 4.—"Docendo Discimus," No. 2. One prize for interior, and extra for block .....	20
— 5.—"Alpha." One prize for interior, and extra for block .....	15
— 6.—"Episcopon." One prize for interior, and extra for block.....	15
— 7.—"Iota." One prize for interior, and extra for block .....	15
— 8.—"True Economy." One prize for interior, and extra for block.....	15
— 9.—"All is not gold that glitters." Extra prize...	10
— 10.—"Multum in Parvo," No. 1. do. ...	10
— 11.—"Felix." do. ...	10
— 12.—"Per Vias Rectas" do. ...	5
— 13.—"Rural and Maple Leaf," No. 1. do. ...	5
— 14.—"Interest." do. ...	5
— 15.—"E. L. F." do. ...	5
— 16.—"Ami de mouvement." do. ...	5
— 17.—"Hopeful." do. ...	5
	\$230

**PLANS NOT ACCEPTED.**

— 18.—"Ku Klux."	
— 19.—"Onward."	
— 20.—"Maple Leaf," No. 2.	
— 21.—"Multum in Parvo," No. 2.	
— 22.—"McK."	
— 23.—"Coup d'essai."	
— 24.—"Excelsior."	
— 25.—"I try."	
— 27.—"Sigma."	
— 28.—"Pro bono publico,"	
— 29.—"Spero sed metuo."	
— 30.—"Red Ink."	
— 31.—"New Dominion."	

The motto envelopes having been opened after the prizes were awarded, the names of the winners of the prizes, in the order in which they are arranged above, were found to be the following:—

No. 1.—Otto Klotz, Esq., Ex-Local Superintendent, Preston: "Education is the Bulwark of Liberty." Two prizes .....	\$ 40
— 2.—Henry De La Matter, Esq., Head Master, High School, Owen Sound: "Le jour viendra." Two prizes .....	25
— 3.—Mr. S. S. Cann, Teacher, Port Hope: "Docendo Discimus," (No. 1.) Two prizes.....	25
— 4.—Robert Little, Esq., Inspector, Co. Halton: "Docendo Discimus," (No. 2.) Two prizes .....	20
— 5.—Mr. Jas. Dickie, Hamilton: "Alpha." Two prizes, 15	
— 6.—Jas. H. Ball, Esq., M.A., Inspector, Co. Welland: "Episcopon" .....	15
— 7.—Mr. George F. Payne, Teacher, 10 E. Zorra: "Iota" .....	15
— 8.—Mr. John Irwin, Teacher, No. 3 Belleville: "True Economy" .....	15
— 9.—Mr. Francis C. Powell, Teacher, Port Elgin: "All is not gold that glitters" .....	10
— 10.—John B. Somerset, Esq., Inspector, Co. Lincoln, and J. H. Comfort, Esq., Inspector, St. Catharines: "Multum in Parvo" .....	10
— 11.—Mr. Wm. O'Connor, Teacher, Seaforth: "Felix" .....	10
— 12.—R. Harcourt, Esq., Inspector, Co. Haldimand: "Per Vias Rectas" .....	5
— 13.—Mr. W. Laing, Hamilton: "Rural Maple Leaf" .....	5
— 14.—Mr. Hugh Robertson, Teacher, Toronto "Interest" .....	5
— 15.—Mr. D. McIntyre, Teacher, No. 10 Lancaster, "E. L. F." .....	5