

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

Model School.

A Gala Day for Bright-Eyed Little People—The Prizes and Recipients.

Closing day to the average young Canadian in Montreal, as well as elsewhere, is an era in school history never to be forgotten. For more than one reason, it is made at once joyous, impressive and sorrowful; for there is the flow of gladness to the heart of the school-boy of tender years, if he has fulfilled the tasks imposed upon him during the term; gratification that he has pleased teachers and friends; pride that his efforts have been crowned with success and rewarded by a suitable acknowledgment from the school authorities. There is a feeling, however, that cannot help weighing with the boy who, gifted with perhaps more than ordinary talent, lacked application necessary for success, and failed for that reason, and which impresses him, at least for the moment, with the result of his neglect. There is withal a sadness about the final close of the year's exercises that tinges with sorrow even the joyous carol of the young voices that well up in the school songs—harmonious evidence of the power of training experienced in the past term. It makes itself more manifest, however, when "God Save the Queen" brings the exercises to a close, and the moment arrives for the parting of classmates—many of whom leave school to enter life's battle, and experience the first struggle with wind and tide which follow childhood's days so closely in the after school life, that one never knows where it began until school-boy days become the theme of full-grown men, well up in years, who may meet in the course of events and retail the loved experience. The parting with the school teacher, and the head masters and principal too—all unite to throw the slightest tinge of discomfort around the parting, and as the handshaking goes on, and pupil and teacher meet for the last time, the discipline of the school hour and its consequences are alike buried, and in many cases tears dim the bright eyes and course down the ruddy cheek of the little one, and the teacher often cannot help the moisture which will make itself felt as some little favorite bids the good-bye that is to be farewell, perhaps forever. But this is not for long. The vision of relaxation in the long holiday has its anticipated delight both for the teacher and scholar; and if the latter forget the parting sorrow almost in the same instant it is experienced, it is all the better so. But to the closing day.

IN THE MORNING,

the examinations were commenced at ten o'clock, and carried on under the supervision of Principal Hicks. A number of visitors—friends and parents of the children—were present, and the programme was carried out in a manner highly creditable to Principal Hicks and the efficient corps of teachers connected with the school. Under the direction of Professor Fowler the pupils sang a number of school songs very nicely, and the examination being concluded, the children were dismissed—to meet again in the afternoon to witness the award of prizes to successful scholars.

IN THE AFTERNOON,

a large number of spectators was present, the hall being crowded so that scarce standing room was obtainable. Present on the platform were Dr. Dawson, in the chair, Principal Hicks, Mr. Frank Hicks, Professor Fowler, and Misses Derrick and Murray.

Principal Hicks having called the children to order, said that he would not detain the eager little people around him with an address of any length. They had now met for the purpose of closing the School, as was usual at this season annually. He must say that he would like to see more of the parents and friends of the children present at the examination of the young people in the morning, but accepted the presence of the large number there in the afternoon to witness the distribution of the prizes as evidence that the parents were well satisfied with the manner in which the examinations were carried on, and showed their confidence in the principal and teachers by preferring to stay away from the morning examinations and show by their presence at the distribution of prizes in the afternoon that they appreciated the labors of those who had the education of the children in charge. (Applause.) The principal further briefly alluded to the utility of the school, not only in affording education for the young people, but also as the means of sending to the Normal School students who after going through the preparatory training there afforded, were of great service in disseminating knowledge throughout the Province as teachers of others. He would now with much pleasure introduce to them the chairman of the afternoon, Dr. Dawson, who would announce the programme.

Dr. Dawson said that he was glad to see so many of the children before him, and proceeded to carry out the programme, requesting Miss Derrick to read the list of those entitled to prizes in the junior and intermediate divisions. The prizes were distributed to the juniors and intermediate classes by Dr. Dawson, after which the girls of the Junior Division sang "Fear Not but Trust in Providence," in a style that only little girls' voices are capable of, Professor Fowler accompanying on the pianoforte. Mr. F. Hicks and Miss Derrick then called up the remaining divisions, and after the prizes had been presented, a recitation was well given by one of the boys:—"Edinburg after Flodden." A little girl about 12 years old from the advanced class gave a comic rendition of "Counting chickens before they are hatched." The advanced class of girls having given an excellent piece of vocalism.

Dr. Dawson arose to close the proceedings. He expressed in a few words the pleasure everything had given him, and advised the children who were now closing their studies for the season, not to forget that they could devote much of their time to useful objects and still have plenty left for recreation. He advised the pupils of the advanced classes especially to improve and open their minds by reading books that were capable of affording much information to them—not light trashy reading, but such as would be of service to them in their studies next year. One thing he wished to say to the boys was that the school authorities had arranged that hereafter, boys in the higher departments could compete in the University for the degree of B.A., a distinction which would be of much service to them in after life; he hoped that the day was not far distant when the same thing would be done for the young ladies as well. The advantages afforded pupils for access to the Normal School were alluded to, and Dr. Dawson mentioned the fact that the Dufferin Medal had this year been taken by a former pupil of the school, and that last year the Princes of Wales' Medal was also taken by an old school-fellow of theirs. Dr. Dawson further wished the pupils to inform their friends that this afternoon (Friday) would be the occasion on which those who had passed successful examinations as teachers would be awarded their diplomas. It was to the exertions of those young people training as teachers that those before him owed much of their proficiency, and their parents would certainly manifest their interest