

ended by congratulating the pupils on their progress in the various matters taught, and complimented them in French, on their progress in that language, which was done in a humorous style, and was loudly cheered. The Parting Hymn was then sung by the class, and Rev. Mr. Kemp pronounced the benediction.

Public examinations and distributions of Prizes in the Colleges and Academies in Lower Canada.

The month of July, seems by common accord to have been chosen by all public institutions, for the commencement of their vacations. The heat which in our cities is almost intolerable at that time of the year, make it a matter still more of necessity than of choice, and it would not even be a bad suggestion that the public examinations should take place in the last fortnight of June, and the two months of vacation for those colleges, which have only a ten months session, be made, July and August, instead of August and September. The short time during which the warm weather lasts, in Canada, seems to be compensated by its intensity and while perhaps one may not exactly like that system of compensation, the rule being well known it would be just as well to abide by it and act accordingly. September is generally cool, and just the time when young people might be brought back to town after having enjoyed the *delicias ruris* and when means will allow it, the beautiful scenery of the lower St. Lawrence and the cold salt water baths of Rivière du Loup and Cacouna. Under the present arrangements the public examinations have taken place during the most oppressive weather in the year and that which ought to be a pleasant task for parents, teachers, pupils and friends of education, has become something of a *corvée* equally onerous to all. Still we must say that all have made the best of it and have appeared to ignore the canicular heat that was penetrating them in the crowded halls of our colleges and academies. The great zeal which is shown at the present moment by all classes of the community in this, and in all other countries, accounts easily for such a degree of stoicism.

We publish at full length the proceedings of the meeting which took place in the hall of the McGill normal school, for the distribution of prizes to the pupils of the High school. We will now say a few words of the other institutions at the public exhibitions of which we were able to be present. They unfortunately, almost all take place simultaneously and, even three or four, were had on the same day, in Montreal and the neighbourhood.

The first of those meetings was that of the girls academy at Longueuil. This institution conducted by the ladies of the holy names of Jesus and Mary, is in existence only since 1843. It has now besides the chief establishment, at Longueuil, seven academies in other parishes all numerously attended. The *maison-mère* has 416 pupils of whom, 90 are boarders.

The examinations have been remarkable for the sound and practical character of the training which it evinces; though on the other hand it attains the highest degree of mental and social cultivation. A most touching incident was the parting address delivered by a young lady who has lost, since entering this institution, her mother and her elder sister, the latter having been carried away a short time after entering the convent as a nun.

The next day, at the college of St. Therese, the examinations were also saddened and the usual gaiety of the pupils upon such occasions, restrained, by the recent death of the Revd. Mr. Duquette, the cooperator and assistant of Mr. Ducharme, in the foundation of that excellent institution. The memory of that good, pious and energetic priest was alluded to in terms that brought forth the sympathies of the whole audience.

A more lively scene was offered at the examinations of the pupils of the ladies of the Congregation of Notre Dame, both at their boarding house in town, and at the delightful mansion of *Villa Maria* formerly Monklands. The *coup d'œil* in those two places was most brilliant, and the dramatical and musical performances offered ample evidence, the one of the progress made by the pupils in both French and English elocution, and the other of the ability of Mr. Brauneis, the professor of vocal and instrumental music. The halls were crowded with the *élite* of Montreal of all creeds and origins: as the pupils belong to all the classes of our society, and many even come from Upper Canada and the United States. We ought to say as much of the institution of the *Sacré Cœur* at St. Vincent de Paul. The site of the present academy is one of the most beautiful in the district of Montreal, and it is only equalled by that of the *Sault aux Récollets* were a splendid building, (perhaps one of the handsomest in the country) is in course of erection, the institution being about to be transferred there as soon as it is completed. *Sault aux Récollets*, is four miles nearer town and the convenience of most of the parents has been consulted in that move although it is deeply

felt and considered as an injustice by the people of Saint Vincent. There has been no public examination at the Montreal College of the Sulpicians nor at St. Mary's Colleges of the Jesuits. Long and severe private examinations have taken place in both those establishments and the lazy if there are any among the pupils have gained nothing, by that innovation.

At the distribution of prizes of the latter institution a discussion was had among the pupils on the question of the seat of government; each city in Canada was represented, and the speeches and their delivery did the highest credit to the young debaters.

But perhaps the most interesting of the examinations was that of the girls' deaf and dumb Institute of Longuepointe. The institution is conducted by the Sisters of *La Providence*, and in order to afford a facility to the public of Montreal the pupils were brought into one of the rooms of the large school in St. Denis Street. This institute has been in operation only for four years; and already it has made very rapid progress. The nuns were trained themselves in the art of teaching in one of the best American institutions. They have now 30 pupils several of whom are from New Brunswick and others from Upper Canada and the United States. Ample evidence of the proficiency of the pupils in parsing, arithmetic and geography was given to the great satisfaction of the meeting. The most interesting part however if not substantially although apparently, was the mimic dialogues and illustrations of various historical facts. Miss Hanley in her recitation if we may so call it, of the Passion of Our Lord was most admirable and created a thrilling impression on all the spectators, while Mlle. Comptois, a very young child, by her brisk and lively illustrations of some of Lafontaine's Fables contributed to the amusement of the assembly. The greatest interest was excited in favor of those unfortunate creatures, and every one felt how indebted they are to the worthy teachers who in so short a time have enlightened minds that by a deficiency in the physical organs, were otherwise condemned to absolute darkness and ignorance.

Apart from what we have seen ourselves of our colleges and academies, the newspapers are full of reports of the proceedings had at the Seminary of Quebec, at Bishop's College Lennoxville, at the Ursulines of Quebec, at the College of St. Hyacinthe, and a great many others showing that superior education is rapidly progressing among us.

The several large schools of the Christian Brothers in Montreal and in Quebec, where thousands of children receive a sound elementary instruction have also had their public exhibitions, which as usual took place in the presence of crowded audiences.

The result of those public meetings is not only to inspire emulation to the children but they go far in creating in the community at large, that enthusiastic feeling in favor of education without which the great work cannot well advance. We therefore hail them every year as powerful auxiliaries in the task in which we are ourselves engaged.

High School Department of McGill College.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

On Tuesday afternoon, the fourteenth of July, at three o'clock, the annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the above institution took place in the large hall of the Normal School, Belmont Street. Notwithstanding the excessive heat of the day (96 in the shade), the room was filled with the *élite* of the city. His Excellency the Administrator of the Government presided, supported on the right by the Hon. Mr. Justice Day and Professor Howe, M. A., Rector of the High School, and on the left by Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, D. C. L., Superintendent of Education for Canada East, and the Rev. Canon Leach, D. C. L., L. L. D., Vice-Principal of the University and Dean of the Faculty of Arts of McGill College, while on the right and left of the platform were seated the Governors with the Principal, Fellows and Graduates of the University in their robes.

The ceremonies of the day were opened with prayer by the Rev. Canon Leach, after which

The Rector, Mr. H. A. Howe, M. A., said that before proceeding to the distribution of the prizes he would state a few facts respecting the condition of the School. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled in the books of the year now concluded, was 252, which was an increase over the number of last year. Not that numbers were a test of the excellence of an institution, but when the number of the years during which this institution had been in operation, and that no great novelties had been introduced during that period, were considered the steady increase of pupils, was a reliable evidence that the parents and guardians as well as the public of Montreal appreciated the efforts of this department of McGill College. Of the 252 pupils, over 200 had studied Latin. This was only 14 less than it should have been by the regulations, for it was