

perienced teacher who was present, remarked the absence of anything like the mechanical exercise of memory in answering questions.—Every subject was discussed on its principles. At half past four, after the singing conducted by Mr. Tupper, had been concluded, Dr. Ryerson rose to present to the successful competitors, the Governor General's prizes for proficiency in agricultural chemistry. He said that the principle upon which prizes were given, was not recognized in the Normal School. They went upon the idea, that all students should be treated according to their general conduct and diligence, and should not be rewarded for skill in any particular department which they might derive from peculiar talents or from the effect of previous circumstances. This idea he wished to prevail through all the Common Schools of the country. As the Governor General wished to encourage the particular study of agricultural chemistry, these prizes were bestowed. A committee of gentlemen well informed on the subject, drew up a series of questions, and the students who entered for the prizes were given three hours in which to answer them. Eight had contended on this occasion, two of whom were ladies; one of them had gained the second prize, and the other stood only a little below the third competitor. The study of agricultural chemistry was entirely voluntary on the part of the young ladies; but whenever they entered into it, they placed themselves entirely on an equality with other competitors. He was not sure that the gaining of a prize was even proof of superior knowledge; it depended a great deal upon the power of readily using the knowledge acquired. In this case, the successful lady competitor had so much facility, as to be able to write 18 well filled foolscap pages in the space of three hours. The young man next to her, Mr. Lachlan Kennedy, had answered so far as he went perhaps better than any other, but he failed to give in his reply to the three last questions in time. The Superintendent then proceeded to present Mr. John G. Malcolm, of the Township of Zorra, County of Oxford, with the first prize, which consisted of a number of well-bound books, chiefly relating to agricultural chemistry, with praise for his diligence and good conduct, and words of encouragement for his future career. The second set of books was then presented to Miss Lydia Anne Appleton, of the County of York, and the doctor resumed. He said that 160 students had commenced this session, a larger number than in any previous to it. Of these, 12 had been obliged to leave from ill-health, and nine for family reasons; others had left to take schools in various parts of the country, and one or two had been dismissed for ill-conduct. 127 remained at the close; the largest class they ever had. The object of the Normal School was to improve the Common School teachers of the country, and they had satisfactory proofs of success in the demand for their students from every quarter. He had now several applications and Mr. Robertson had others for teachers, and it was satisfactory to notice that the salaries offered were far higher than ever before. Seventy-five pounds per annum was an ordinary amount, and it often rose to £150, and in some instances £250. The demand was constant for teachers from the Normal School, who could impart instruction in vocal music and drawing. In future, no more third class certificates would be issued, but only first and second. He had every confidence that the students before him would maintain the reputation which the Normal School teachers had already acquired.—By that reputation they were now enabled to obtain a much larger amount in one year than the whole expense of their education in the institution. He might mention an instance of advantage derived from persons witnessing the working of this school. They had a warm contest in Vaughan on the question of taxing the people for establishing school libraries, and it was finally left to the vote of the people.—Without any preparation for their purpose, the Reeve, Councillors, Trustees, Magistrates and Clergy, visited the institution, looked at the books, and the result was that the Township voted a thousand dollars for the libraries. The friends of the School were encouraged to proceed in their work by the financial improvement of the School affairs of the Country. He had just ascertained that the people voted £20,000 more than last year, although the number of Schools was only a little larger than before. In the previous year the increase was over £19,000.

The Rev. Adam Lillie addressed the students very impressively on the importance and responsibility of their future labours, and closed the proceedings with a benediction.

Afterwards, an address was presented by the pupils to Messrs. Robertson and Ormiston, first and second masters, full of expressions of kindly feeling and attachment, to which these gentlemen made suitable replies.

READING WORKS OF THOUGHT.—It is wholesome and bracing for the mind to have its faculties kept on the stretch. Reading an essay of Bacon's, for instance, or a chapter of Aristotle, or of Butler, if it be well and thoughtfully read, is much like climbing up a hill, and may do one the same sort of good. Set the tortoise to run against the hare; and, even if he does not overtake it, he will do more than he did previously, more than he would ever have thought himself capable of doing. Set the hare to run with the tortoise: he falls asleep.

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PROVINCIAL NORMAL AND MODEL SCHOOLS.

Accounts of the semi-annual examination of students and pupils in the Normal and Model Schools for Upper Canada (which was concluded Saturday, the 15th Oct.) will be found in another part of this number. They are extracted from the Toronto city press.

The Winter Session of the Normal School will commence on Tuesday the 15th November, and close the 15th April. Candidates for admission must apply during the first week of the Session.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

During the last six weeks, notice has been received at the Education Office from nearly *two hundred* Municipalities, mostly Townships, of appropriations for the establishment of libraries; and similar intimations continue to be received from day to day. Some of the municipal appropriations notified, amount to £300; and the greater part of the sums appropriated has been made payable during the months of October and November, so as to secure the advantages of libraries during the ensuing winter. The number of books which will be put into circulation by means of these libraries, in the course of another month or six weeks, will amount to from 50,000 to 75,000 volumes, affording reading for several times that number of persons. All these books have been purchased since the beginning of September. We doubt, whether in any State in America, so much was ever appropriated by the people, and so many libraries established within two months. It is a most gratifying and encouraging example of the spirit of the people of Upper Canada, and of the facilities of communication, that within three months, notices should be sent to all the Municipalities, deliberated upon by the majority of them, such means appropriated and provided, such quantities of books obtained from England and the United States, forwarded to their places of destination—including every county municipality in Upper Canada. The reading of these books will afford agreeable and useful entertainment to some 300,000 of our fellow countrymen during the long evenings of the ensuing winter, apart from the indication it gives, and the prospect it opens of the future of our beloved country.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES—FIRST APPORTIONMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY GRANT.

To the Municipalities of Townships, Cities, Towns, Villages, and School Sections.

The time having arrived for making the first apportionment of the Legislative Grant for the establishment of School Libraries in Upper Canada, the Chief Superintendent of Schools proceeds to explain the basis on which he proposes to make the apportionment, and the manner in which he thinks, under the circumstances, it should be made.