

*From the Michigan Farmer.*

The selection of books recommended by our State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to be used in the schools of this State, we regard as a judicious one. His task was a delicate and difficult one—the selection was to be made from a great variety of authors, all pressing their claims to public favour, and all having their characteristic excellences and defects. He has done it well—done it, in our opinion, in the exercise of a wise discrimination, and a just regard to the high interest committed to his trust.

In the 4th Annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, Connecticut, the evil of a variety of text-books in the Schools is thus deplored:

"This diversity of books, was found to present a very serious obstacle to any proper classification of the pupils, as well as a source of great annoyance and unnecessary expense to parents. Every removal of the family from one district to another, required heavily or quite an entire change in the school books for the children. And the local changes in the several districts, being under no suitable restraint or supervision from the Board of Visitors, were so frequent as to increase the difficulties still more."

Various other reference to the all-important subject of a uniformity of text-books in all our Schools will be found in previous numbers of this *Journal*. The more important will be found on pages 7, 8, 9, 31, 63, and 372 of Volume I. and page 119 of Volume II.

#### COMMON SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN UPPER CANADA.

In our June number we had the pleasure of inserting an excellent and valuable letter from R. Bell, Esq., M.P.P., for the County of Renfrew, on the advantage and propriety of applying the Tavern License Fund of the several Counties to the purchase and maintenance of Common School libraries therein. We have had much satisfaction therefore in finding that the Township in Mr. Bell's own neighbourhood has been the first to profit by the admirable suggestion of its representative. We cordially unite with the Editor of the *Lanark Herald* in hoping "that every other Township not only in these united Counties [of Lanark and Renfrew,] but in the Province will follow so good and so enlightened an example as so nobly set them by Beckwith."

We anticipate with much confidence that the present official mission of the Chief Superintendent of Schools to the United States and Europe, will result in placing within the reach of each School Section in Upper Canada, very satisfactory and highly advantageous facilities for procuring the best description of books for school libraries.

The Editor of the *Lanark Herald* remarks:—

"It gives us great pleasure to learn, that the Municipal Council of the Township of Beckwith has unanimously agreed to devote the whole of the proceeds of the Tavern License Fund, in that Township, to the purchase of books for common school libraries. A By-law has been passed for that purpose, and the Townreeve and Superintendent of Schools for the Township, are appointed Commissioners to purchase the books, and put the libraries in operation. The funds on hand, for this year alone, will be sufficient to procure between 250 and 300 volumes, for the Township.—A library will be established in each school section, and the books divided among them, in proportion to population."

For an admirable article on Libraries, &c., see page 147.

#### EXTENSION OF COLLEGIATE EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

From the following official document we select several paragraphs, containing much general information regarding the character and efficiency of the Queen's new University Colleges in Ireland.

*The Report of the President of the Queen's College, Galway, for the Session 1849-50,*

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY—In pursuance of the provisions of the 8th and 9th Vic., cap. 66, I humbly beg leave to lay before your Majesty a report of the present state of the Queen's College Galway, and of the proceedings of the first session, which has recently terminated.

2. The college was opened for students on the 30th October 1849, under circumstances of a very discouraging nature. The town of Galway possesses a population of not more than 20,000

inhabitants, the greater portion of whom are in a state of the most abject poverty; accordingly, the number of families, likely to avail themselves of academic instruction for their children, is, at the present time, very limited. It was not to have been anticipated, that, from a province suffered under such extreme privations, many students would be found able to encounter the expense of entering an institution where residents for two thirds of each session (a period varying from five to six months) is strictly and necessarily enforced. Nor must it be forgotten, that there is an almost total want of schools in the province, and that no extensive effort has hitherto been made to provide education for the middle and higher classes, to prepare them for collegiate instruction, or to foster that desire for knowledge which so honorably distinguishes other parts of Ireland. Notwithstanding this, at two entrance examinations held, one on the 29th October, 1849, and a supplemental one in January, 1850, sixty-eight candidates were admitted. It is gratifying also to know that these students came from every part of the province; and that they represent, in fair proportions, the different religious persuasions resident therein, thirty-eight of them being members of the Roman Catholic Church, twenty-two being members of the Established Church, and eight members of the Presbyterian Church. The principle of united education has, so far, been carried out; nor has a single circumstance occurred to interrupt the cordial and affectionate feeling which has uniformly prevailed among the students of every denomination.

3. I am glad to be able to state that the conduct of the students has been excellent. The reports of the clergymen appointed to superintend the moral and religious interests of the students of their own persuasions, which are annexed to this report, will be found most satisfactory. The attendance of the students, not only on those religious duties which are enforced by college penalties, but even on such religious instruction as is not compulsory, has been very diligent. I cannot speak too highly of the zeal with which the great majority of the students have pursued their studies, and the advance they have made in those departments of learning in which they have hitherto been engaged.

4. It is almost needless to observe, that the eminent men by whom the different chairs are filled, have more than sustained the high reputation which entitled them to the attention of your Majesty's government. The opening lectures delivered by a large number of those gentlemen (to which the public were admitted,) tended, on no small degree, to obtain for the college public support, while their ability as teachers, and their entire devotion to the interests of the students, is rapidly spreading the conviction of the superior education imparted in the new institution.

5. Among the difficulties with which the college has to contend, the opposition of a portion of the clergy of that persuasion for whose benefit the Queen's Colleges were mainly founded, must not be lost sight of. Large and ample provisions are contained in the statutes, for protecting the moral and religious principles of the students of every faith. The reports of the Deans of Residences show how efficacious and sufficient these provisions are. Indeed, it would be difficult to point out an educational establishment where so vigilant an attention is paid to the morals and the faith of the student, and where his peculiar tenets are protected by such ample safeguards from even a suspicion of interference or of danger.

6. I cannot conclude this part of the subject without referring to the great advantages the college has derived from the appointment of Deans of Residences. The establishment of the office of Deans of Residences, however, is valuable not only as affording to the ministers of religion greater facilities for performing their sacred duties to the students, but also as supplying their manifest and conclusive answer to many of those arguments which have been used against the colleges.

7. With respect to a great part of the buildings, I am enabled to speak in terms of marked satisfaction. The examination hall and the rooms allotted to the library and museum, are handsome and extensive. Ample accommodation has been provided for the professors. The lecture-rooms are lofty, spacious and capable of holding large audiences. The laboratory has been fitted up in a very creditable manner. A dwelling-house, situated on the grounds has been converted, at a small expense, into an excellent anatomical school. We have thus been enabled to supply this want without applying to the treasury for additional funds.