

such a system were adopted in this city the benefits of the Free Schools would be commensurate with what they are intended to confer. But the advantages of our Free Schools in Toronto are not yet complete. However, this does not affect the principle of Free Schools, although many people unwisely imagine so. To carry out the principle and advantages of the Free school system he trusted that the Trustees would carry out a regulation like that which gives to the Boston Schools one of their finest characteristics—that every child shall come to school, at least, cleanly and neatly dressed, so that in the school itself you will not distinguish between the child of the poor man and the child of the rich. The very first idea he had of the superiority of the Massachusetts school system in that particular was while at Boston one day visiting the schools with the then mayor of Boston, the late Mr. Breimer, when he pointed to a boy and said, “you see that boy, that is the son of Mr. Abbott Lawrence, one of the wealthiest men in the city,—the lad beside him is the son of the doorkeeper of the City Hall from which we have just come.” Here was the son of the door-keeper of the City Hall seated by the side of the child of the millionaire of Boston, running the same race with him in instruction. Sometimes the children of the rich think they are much superior to the children of the poor, but let them come and sit down at the same desk and take their place in the same class with these children that come out of the poorest cottages in the country and they will find in these poor boys that in them which will command their respect and stimulate them to exertion, while the poor lad will learn to have a respect instead of envying his wealthier neighbour—a mutual feeling thus running an intellectual race is essential to the best interests of the country. He rejoiced to see such results of his humble efforts to establish a School System in Upper Canada. It had never been his wish to impose anything upon the country. His whole desire had been to help the people to help themselves. He had never tried to control the affairs of any municipality, but had endeavoured to enable each municipality to educate their own children in the way they considered the best fitted to carry out the great advantages of the school system. His prayer was that God would prosper their exertions more and still more, and he hoped that the youth who enjoyed those advantages, so much superior to others who have grown up to mature years, would by their diligence and attention give an encouragement, a support, and an incitement to their teachers, and a reward to their parents for the sacrifices they have made. (Continued applause.)

Song.—Rule Britannia.

Rev. Dr. PYPER expressed himself as exceedingly pleased with the meeting, and with the interesting remarks, of a statistical nature, made by previous speakers, as well as with the very wide scope taken by the Chief Superintendent. He had brought before them an amount of information very pleasing, and which could not fail to be beneficial. The Rev. Dr. congratulated the Board of Trustees upon the success of their enterprise, and trusted that these schools would be colleges indeed for the youth of the city; for the neglect of the elementary instruction given in such schools, could not be compensated for in any of the other institutions of a higher character. It was in the primary school the youth was prepared for becoming a scholar. He rejoiced at the very satisfactory state of the Common School system in the city. The Chief Superintendent had remarked in regard to bringing the law to bear upon parents, in certain circumstances who neglect to do their duty to their children. This might be a startling announcement; yet, he believed, the more closely it was scrutinized, it would be seen to be the true principle of the duty of the State, in regard to those children who are neglected by their parents. The Dr. concluded by some very excellent remarks in regard to the results of the extension of education in Europe.

The pupils then sang, the “Canadian Boat Song.”

Mr. J. LESSLIE, after apologizing briefly for detaining the meeting at so late an hour by any further remarks, expressed the high gratification he felt at the auspicious movement—a movement which he looked upon as marking an era in the history of our city, and to which every friend of progress would look back with delight. As had been already beautifully expressed, the kind of education given in such schools, lies at the very foundation of all that is valuable in intellectual attainments, and, without it, the rest is all an empty name. Mr. Lesslie then alluded to the establishment of the free school system in the city, as an experiment—as one that had hitherto succeeded, and afforded gratifying evidence of progress. But that progress, owing to the deficiency so ably pointed out by Dr. Ryerson, had been retarded. It had also difficulties to contend with in the want of school accommodation, and other essential arrangements. These defects had been happily remedied, and every facility would now be afforded to the thorough working of the system. After dwelling at some length on the necessity of some sort of reformatory school for juvenile delinquents, and the kind of school necessary to meet the principle laid down by the Chief Superintendent, Mr. Lesslie concluded by again expressing his delight at the cheering progress which the educational system in the city manifested. Mr. TULLY, another member of the Board, made some felicitous remarks in regard to the progress of the educational system, and dwelt

at some length on the benefits derived from the cultivation of music in the schools. He said that the meeting had very good evidence that there was harmony in this school, although it was only due to the exertions of their worthy teacher, Mr. Thompson, to say that his school was acknowledged to stand at the head of the city schools in this department. He considered the cultivation of music as absolutely necessary. It was healthful and cheerful to the pupils, and it was pleasing to their parents. In Germany, the child learned his chromatic scale, just as he learned his alphabet; and he did not see why the same should not be done here. After expressing his gratification that it had now been resolved to read the Bible in the Common Schools, he requested Mr. Ald. DUGGAN, the senior Alderman of the Ward, to address the meeting.

Mr. Ald. DUGGAN, after stating the great satisfaction he had felt at the interesting proceedings—at the order the children had observed, and the pleasing and harmonious manner in which they had executed their musical pieces—addressed some appropriate remarks to the pupils. He concluded by expressing his delight at the prospect of the Common School system being entirely successful.

The Queen's Anthem was then sung, and

The Rev. Dr. PYPER then closed the proceedings with the Apostolic Benediction—*Condensed from the Globe's Report.*

## Miscellaneous.

### THE SPIRIT OF SPRING.

Spirit of Spring! when the cheek is pale,  
There is health in thy balmy air,  
And peace in that brow of beaming bright,  
And joy in that eye of sunny light,  
And golden hope in that flowing hair;  
Oh! that such influence e'er should fail,  
For a moment Spirit of Spring—  
Spirit of health, peace, joy, and hope, Spirit of Spring!

Yet fail it must—for it comes of earth,  
And it may not shame its place of birth—  
Where the best can bloom but a single day,  
And the fairest is first to fade away!

But oh! there's a changeless world above,  
A world of peace, joy, and love,  
Where, gather'd from the tomb—  
The holy hopes that earth has cross'd  
And the pious friends we lov'd and lost,  
In mortality shall bloom!

Who will not watch, strive and pray,  
That his longing soul may soar away  
On Faith's untiring wing,  
To join the throng of the saints in light,  
In that world, forever fair and bright,  
Of endless, cloudless Spring!

[Right Rev. G. W. Doane.]

### SUN-RISE IN THE ARCTIC REGIONS AFTER A TWELVE WEEKS' NIGHT.

(From the Grinnell Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, by Dr. Kane.)

“The appearances which heralded the sun's return had a degree of interest for us which it is not easy to express in words. I have referred more than once already to the effects of the long continued night on the health of our crowded ship's company. It was even more painful to notice its influence on their temper and spirits. Among the officers this was less observable. Our mess seemed determined, come what might, to maintain towards each other that honest courtesy of manner, which those who have sailed on long voyages together know to be the rarest and most difficult proof of mutual respect.

“With the men, however, it was different; more deficient in the resources of education, and less restrained by conventional usages or the principles of honor from communicating to each other what they felt, all sympathized in the imaginary terrors which each one conjured up. The wild voices of the ice and wind; the strange sounds that issued from the ship; the hummocks bursting up without any apparent cause through the darkness; the cracks, and the dark rushing water that filled them; the distorted wonder workings of refraction; in a word, all that could stimulate, or sicken, or oppress the fancy, was a day and night-mare dream for the forecastle.

“For some days the sun-clouds at the south had been changing their character; their edges became better defined, their extremities den- tated, their colour deeper as well as warmer; and from the spaces