

kind in the province. In addition to former conveniences it now has an excellently arranged science room, a room with special desks for drawing, and a reading room nicely fitted and furnished with leading papers, magazines, &c.

A resolution was unanimously passed by the students at the close of the Yorkville Model School, tendering a vote of thanks to the principal, W. J. Hendry, for the very efficient discharge of his duties as Head Master during the last term.

Toronto Public School Board has taken charge of the Orphans' Home School.

Rev. Dr. Rose, Dr. Hodgins, and Mr. A. T. McCord, accompanied by Mr. James Bain, Chairman of the Committee of School Management, and Mr. James Hughes, Inspector, presented the Jesse Ketchum prizes in the Toronto Public Schools on December 13th and 16th.

London and Toronto School Boards are agitating the question of increasing the minimum age of school children from 5 to 6 years.

The Kingston Board of Education has dismissed twelve teachers from the public school staff, who have failed to comply with the regulations, by securing advanced certificates.

All the teachers in Bowmanville have been re-engaged at their former salaries.

At the last meeting of the Teachers' Association in Elgin it was moved by Mr. Millar, seconded by Mr. Steele, "that in the opinion of this Association the present arrangements for acquiring the professional training for second class teachers do not afford sufficient facilities for securing certificates, after the non-professional attainments have been obtained." Carried. At the same meeting the committee appointed to examine Swinton's Language Lessons reported in favor of the latest edition of Miller & Co.

The Inspector of schools for East Bruce, Mr. Clendinning, has issued the following circular to the teachers of his district, informing them of the conditions on which he will recommend the extension of third class certificates. (1) third-class teachers whose certificates expire in July, 1879, and who avow their intention to attend some school in 1880 with a view to preparing for the second class examination; (2) candidates who succeed, or almost succeed, in passing the non-professional second class examination in December or July next, and may wish to teach until an opportunity occurs of either attending a Normal School or preparing for the second class examination; (3) third class candidates who at any non-professional examination gain ten per cent. more than the required number of marks, with, perhaps, the addition of attendance at a Model School. The Inspector objects to endorsing certificates from other counties except in the case of a scarcity of teachers in his own district.

In a report by M. Buisson, President of the French Commission at the Philadelphia Exhibition on Primary education, we find the following reference to Canadian Education:—"We have already spoken of the models of school houses which were exhibited by the Province of Ontario, Canada. We ought not to forget to mention the work recently published by Dr. Hodgins, Deputy Minister of Education at Toronto, under the title of 'School Architecture.' There is found in it most complete information on the different questions which present themselves on the selection of sites and materials, the disposition of the buildings, and the best models of seats, blackboards, &c. We have nothing so complete in France to guide those who have at heart the establishment of proper country school houses. Dr. Hodgins is perfectly familiar with all that has been done in the United States; he has selected with judgment what he found best and most useful and perfect. Moreover, the buildings recently constructed at Toronto and Hamilton are remarkable for the admirable arrangements adopted in them for light, ventilation and heating."

At the close of the Niagara High School Examination a crowded audience assembled in the Court Room, where Rev. Chas. Campbell, in presenting valuable prizes to the pupils who had passed the July intermediate examination, paid a high tribute to the efficiency of the Head Master, Mr. Albert Andrews, and Miss Carnochan, assistant. A handsome gold watch and chain, and a purse containing \$50, were then presented to Rev. Charles Campbell, chairman of the High and Public School Boards, as a tribute of friendship and esteem from the many friends of that gentleman in the town and township of Niagara and vicinity. Mr. Campbell, who is about leaving that town, has ever shown himself a true friend of public education, and this testimonial is well deserved.

His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, attended the closing exercises of the Ottawa Public Schools, and delivered the following impromptu address.

Mr. Chairman, School Trustees, and Pupils of the City of Ottawa,—

Allow me to tell you how much pleasure it affords me to be able to be present to-night, and to wish each of you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. (Cheers.) It is, I assure you, with great satisfaction I embrace this opportunity of saying how much I admire and revere the admirable system of education adopted in this great Province of Ontario, and of handing to those who have been successful in the competition of this year the volumes which they have so worthily and creditably won, and to hope that they may be as successful in their after career as they have up to the present time. I know how the population of this great Province value their system of education, and I am most happy to see how well they know how to give effect to the manner in which they value it. (Cheers.) Nothing impressed me more forcibly at the Paris Exposition this present year than the great show made by Canada of the furniture, plans, books, &c., used in her schools. It explained to me at once the truth of an observation I once heard by a gentleman who had received a liberal education in England. After returning from a visit to Canada, he remarked, "If I had received one-fourth of the education imparted in the Public and Separate Schools of Canada, I would to-day have been a wiser man." The display made at Paris was a most judicious one, and one calculated to invite the population of the old world to Canada's fair fields and vast untitled lands, and to inform the intending emigrant that his children would be as well cared for in this new world as in any country of the old world. I am afraid that if many of our young friends make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the contents of the volumes given them this evening, and similar volumes, they will be better learned than we who have lived more years than they have. Ladies and gentlemen, at Paris it was said that there were some blanks in the exhibition by Canada of the wonderful products of her harvest and in the manufactures of machinery, &c. I can now understand that we did not wish to hurt the susceptibilities of Europe, for if we had exhibited our fine wheat, or our luscious golden pippin apples, we should at once have shown the apple of discord and awoken the envy of the Parisians. (Laughter.) For the same reason we did not exhibit largely in the machinery department. Other nations filled the whole building with great machines, that vibrated, sounded, and whirled, and the wheels and pistons of which were driven by steam. We did not desire to show them that we had another motive power than steam to drive our machinery. We did not wish to inform the denizen of Paris or of London that if he should see the Ottawa or the St. Lawrence he would feel ashamed of himself when he looked on the Seine or the Thames again. (Laughter.) The exhibition of educational apparatus was the best exhibit the Dominion could have made. It was interesting to see the magnificent lumber trophy, exhibiting the wealth and treasures of our forests, but in our educational exhibit we demonstrated to the world that we were apt in cultivating the greatest treasure of all: the ready brain and quick instinct of the youth of this country. (Cheers.) Now, I desire to address a few words to the young folks present. First of all, I would say to those who have not been successful this year that they must not lose heart. There is one good maxim which they should remember; it is, "Better luck next time" (laughter), and another still better, "Never say die" (Applause.) Many men who have not been successful at first have in the end obtained more than they hoped primarily to obtain. I need not recommend you to read one of the most beautiful volumes written in this century, "The Tales of My Grandfather," from the pen of the celebrated Sir Walter Scott. (Applause.) In this great work he narrates the story of a great Scottish king, who in a time of difficulty, danger, distress, and fear, went to sleep, weary with exertion, and hopeless of success in the great enterprise of delivering his country from her enemies. When he awoke from his slumber he saw on the rafters above his head a spider endeavouring to spin her web. The spider tried several times to bridge across the span, but it proved too wide for her. She tried, I think, three times, and failed in each attempt, and at last Bruce said that if the spider should try another time and succeed he would follow the example. The spider did try again, and succeeded. From that event Bruce drew a favorable omen, and success attended another attempt, and thus he won our gratitude and roused our pride. I will draw the same moral from an incident in the early career of one of the greatest financiers of our time. I allude to Mr. Gladstone. (Applause.) When he was leaving school for College, as many of you are doing to-night, he told his father that he would do his best to succeed in classics, but he (his father) must not expect him to suc-