

houses, have amounted to \$109,151, a sum nearly equal to that which they were in strictness bound to raise, and an increase over and above the assessments of 1858, similarly imposed, of \$20,779.

The special or supplementary assessments of the four last years are as follow:—

1856	1857	1858	1859
\$93,896.	\$78,781.	\$88,372.	\$109,151.

The vast utility of the provision of law whereby School Commissioners and dissentient Trustees are authorized to raise the yearly assessment, and under the authority of the Department, to levy special rates for the purpose of paying off debt, appears in the above figures. The reason why the amount of 1856 exceeded that of the next year was, that many municipalities awaited the passing of the new law to make provision for the payment of old debts. The disposition to maintain the yearly assessment at a high rate in order to make liberal provision for the payment of teachers and other expenses attendant on education, seems to continue and even gain ground, as will be perceived by the progression in the years 1857, 1858 and 1859.

The amount of the assessments made for building purposes is \$22,083; in 1858, it was \$24,646: it has decreased \$2,563. In the four last years the assessments have been as follow:—

1856	1857	1858	1859
\$24,491.	\$21,928.	\$24,646.	\$22,083.

This species of assessment must necessarily be subject to such fluctuation. It is a matter of urgent necessity, which I have pointed out in my former Reports, that a special appropriation should be made to aid in the building of school-houses. This would have the collateral advantage of obliging claimants to a share in the grant to build on improved plans more favorable to education and the health of master and scholars.

The *Journal de l'Instruction Publique* has published a series

of articles on the above important subject, with plans and engravings shewing the progress of improvement in the methods of constructing such edifices. The usefulness of that publication cannot, however, be very great, unless the Department be enabled to take the lead, and set the example, of a reform so desirable and so essential. The Catholic School Commissioners of the City of Montreal, who have already a spacious school-house of their building, in Côté Street, in which their Commercial Academy is taught, have this year appropriated \$6,000 for the erection of other school-houses. As, however, that sum was not raised by special assessment, but formed a part of their ordinary revenue, and was so borne on the table, I have not included it in the Statement of monies raised for the purpose of building school-houses.

The statistics of the year, respecting the number of institutions and that of pupils attending them, shew remarkable progress. As in my former Reports, I give a Statement of the contributions, the institutions, and the number of pupils from 1853. The increase of 1859 over 1858 in the number of institutions, is 205; that of 1858 over 1857 was only 39. The increase in the number of pupils is 11,276; in 1858, it was only 8,074.

The census of children, between five and sixteen years of age, for the year 1859 is not yet complete. The Returns are in general so incorrect, as I have before said, that they require a lengthened correspondence with the Secretary-Treasurers to render the census co-ordinate. And after all, it is, I have reason to fear, very incomplete. Thus being a principal cause of the delay in publishing my Report, I have thought fit to omit the table for the present year.

The following table, shewing the progress of the pupils in the several branches of instruction, includes, except in the two first, those scholars of the superior schools who receive an education similar to that of the primary schools, as it does likewise the pupils of the latter. The increase in each branch, since 1853, has been very great.

	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	Increase over 1858.	Increase over 1857.	Increase over 1856.	Increase over 1855.	Increase over 1854.	Increase over 1853.
Institutions.....	2352	2795	2669	2919	2916	2985	3199	214	253	280	330	401	747
Pupils.....	108281	119733	127058	143141	148798	156872	168148	11276	19350	25007	41090	48115	59864
Contributions	165848	238032	249136	406764	424208	459396	498436	39040	74228	91672	249300	260101	332588

	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	Increase over 1858.	Increase over 1857.	Increase over 1856.	Increase over 1855.	Increase over 1854.	Increase over 1853.
Pupils reading well...	27367	32861	43407	46910	48833	52099	64362	12263	15529	17422	20955	31501	36995
" writing.....	50072	47014	58033	60086	61943	65401	80152	14748	18209	20066	22119	33138	30080
Learning simple arith.	18281	22897	30631	48359	52845	55847	63514	7667	10669	15155	32883	40617	45233
" compound	12428	18073	22586	24341	26643	28196	30919	2723	4276	7488	8333	12846	18471
" Book-keeping.....	799	1976	5012	5500	*6689	7135	447	1635	2123	5159	6336	7135
" Geography.....	12185	13826	17700	30134	33606	37817	45393	7546	11787	15259	27693	31567	33208
" History.....	6738	11486	15520	17380	26147	42316	45997	3681	19850	28417	30477	34511	39259
" French grammar.....	15353	17552	232	39328	39067	43307	53452	10145	14355	14124	30192	35600	38099
" English	7066	7097	9001	11824	12074	15348	19773	4425	7699	7919	10769	12676	12707
" Parsing.....	4412	9283	16439	26310	4064	40733	44466	3733	10402	18156	28027	35183	40051

* This number, returned by mistake in 1858, was that given in the Table termed the Inspectors'. I have here restored, for the sake of uniformity, that of the general recapitulation of the table of all institutions. It is well known that there is a slight difference between the two Returns, which has been already explained.

The Visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to America.

X.

UPPER CANADA.

(Continued from our last.)

The Prince received the silver trowel used on this occasion from the hands of the Hon. John Rose, Chief Commissioner of Public

Works. It bore on one side an inscription commemorative of the event, on the other side was engraved a design of the edifice as it will appear when completed. On the announcement being made by the Governor General, that the ceremony was ended, a deafening cheer arose from the multitude which occupied the seats of the amphitheatre in front of the platform. The architects, Messrs. Fuller and Jones, were then presented to His Royal Highness.

The Rideau Canal joins the River Ottawa here, dividing the town into two parts, the Upper Town above, and the Lower below