

Educational Intelligence.

CANADA.

Items.—The schools in the city of Toronto have been declared free schools by the Board of School Trustees from the 1st instant. The estimated expenses of elementary education in the city for 1851, is set down at £2,200—£293 of which is to be set apart as the nucleus of a building fund. The plan is an excellent one.—In relation to the proposed new central school in the city of Hamilton, the *Spectator* remarks, that, at a recent meeting of the "Board of school trustees, plans were submitted by Messrs. Cumberland and Ridout for a central school—a majority of the board having some time since decided upon adopting that system. The plan is chaste, and the building will have a fine appearance, although the strictest economy has been observed. The cost of the building, to accommodate 1,000 pupils, is estimated at £2,650. The board, by a vote of 6 to 2, decided upon the adoption of the plans; and the intention is to have the work under contract immediately. A site in St. George's Ward has been chosen as the cheapest and best adapted for the purpose; and it is hoped that some difficulties in the way of procuring that property will be overcome."—The school trustees of Belleville have applied for a tax of £1,600 to be levied for the purpose of building two common school houses.—The town council of Brockville has appropriated £920 for the purchase of a site and the erection of a superior common school house.—Geo. Alexander, Esq., President of the Teachers' Institute, Woodstock, has issued a circular to the teachers of common schools and others in the County of Oxford, urging upon them the importance of teachers' institutes. He announces that two or three days of the latter part of this month will be devoted to lectures on different subjects, before the institute.—A school "convention" was recently held at Port Rowan, of which a correspondent of the *L. P. Advocate* observes: "The object appears to have been to ascertain, by a brief examination, the present state of schools in the township of Walsingham, and to promote a general interest for education in that township. The scholars, composing no less than eight different schools, with their respective teachers and trustees, were present on the occasion. The house was crowded with spectators. The scholars were arranged in two divisions, which recited alternately. The questions were answered promptly by the scholars. Some of the classes distinguished themselves in the branches generally taught in the common schools, particularly arithmetic and algebra, as far as simple equations. After the conclusion of the examination, several appropriate addresses were delivered.—The Middlesex teachers' association held its annual meeting at London, on the 5th instant. Officers were appointed, and an address ordered to be prepared on the subject of the "regulations authorized for the granting of certificates to teachers; and the appointment of incompetent persons" as township superintendents. Examples of the best modes of teaching are to be given at the next meeting, on the 5th of July. In urging a full attendance of teachers, one of their number very properly remarks: "Our legislators have done almost everything in their power for us. Money is most liberally granted. A Chief Superintendent, active, efficient, and friendly to teachers, is continued in his station. A Normal School, a provincial and a county board of public instruction, do all in their power for us, and for the good of the rising generation. Our school Act as a whole is not surpassed by any yet in operation in any county. What more can be done for us? If our collective wisdom can suggest any real improvements to forward education, we may obtain a hearing, and doubtless our petitions due consideration. Is it possible that we thus privileged can let any opportunity of advancing in learning, pass unimproved? Let us unite in county and township associations, for mutual improvement. Let us devote our whole idle time to self education, and put forth all our energies to teach those entrusted to our care. Let us read and digest the most approved works on theoretical and practical teaching; and at all times be open to receive instruction and acknowledge it, from whomsoever we can get it. It is high time to awaken out of lethargy. Let us march onward, or step aside and give place to more competent teachers. The country is being aroused to the importance of sound, liberal, and useful education, and if we cannot keep in the van, let us fall into the rear."—Miss Haigh, formerly head female teacher at the U. C. London Union School, having been obliged to desist from teaching, owing to ill health, has been presented by her ex-pupils with a beautiful present of books, accompanied with an highly complimentary note.—At the quarterly meeting of the Teachers' Association, Oshawa, a correspondent of the *Reformer* states: "The attendance of teachers was greater than on any other occasion since the Institution was organized, and I may also say that we have never before succeeded in spending the time in exercises so profitable, so interesting, and so thoroughly practical. Mr. Johnston delivered an able address on the duties of the Teachers, and the best way of performing them," &c.—In regard to the recent examination of the county grammar school at Belleville, a correspondent of the *Intelligencer*

remarks:—The manner in which the pupils acquitted themselves was exceedingly creditable to themselves, and to their excellent and indefatigable teacher, Mr. Alexander Burdon. There was present a goodly number of visitors who expressed their high satisfaction with the manner in which the school appeared to have been conducted. Several prizes were awarded. It is gratifying to find that our Grammar School still sustains its high character. We are glad also to learn, that the new edifice lately erected for its accommodation will soon be completed, and that then an assistant teacher will be employed for the English department.—The quarterly examinations of schools in various places are highly spoken of by the local papers. We subjoin one or two: *Woodstock*. The local superintendent says: "It may be satisfactory to know that the last quarterly examinations of our common schools in this place showed the most satisfactory results. It was most gratifying to witness the proficiency and progress of the children. I consider our schools, models in everything, but in the important matter of school accommodation, which is certainly miserable in all the houses, except in the one occupied by Mr. Izard. The examinations were continued through three half days. The teachers were present at and assisted in the examination of each others' schools; several also of the more advanced pupils went from school to school to witness the examinations; and at the close, on Tuesday, the teachers and several of the scholars, from all schools, met and sang several pieces of music together. It was most pleasing to witness this harmony, among the youthful members of the community, and the example of the teachers will no doubt tend powerfully to foster and increase it."—*Paisley Block*. The *Guelph Advertiser* states that, "On Friday last, a public examination of the school conducted by Mr. W. Cowan, Paisley Block, took place, and, we are glad to say, was attended by a considerable number of the most respectable inhabitants of the neighbourhood. The Revs. J. G. McGregor and R. Torrance, assisted by the local superintendent, and other parties, conducted the examination; which was very satisfactory in every department. After the examination, a handsome present, consisting of 18 volumes of books, the gift of the school trustees, and neighbouring inhabitants, was presented to Mr. Cowan by Mr. Kirkland, as a testimonial of the high esteem in which they hold Mr. Cowan's educational labours, in the Sabbath, as well as the week day school. The whole of the proceedings were of a very interesting character.—The usual quarterly examination held in Oshawa, Niagara, Galt, West Dunsfries, &c., &c., which are reported, seem to have been highly interesting and productive of much good.—The *Norfolk Messenger* speaks in the highest terms of the recent county examination of Teachers. It remarks, "The more we see of the working of the system, the better satisfied do we become of its utility and adaptation to the purposes of its organization. From its operation we look for the most beneficial ultimate results. Defects it doubtless has, but defects which experience and reflection will speedily remove."—At an open convocation of the Toronto University, Laratt W. Smith, B.C.L., was re-elected Pro-Vice-Chancellor—and George Crookshank, M.A., was re-elected member of the Caput.

NOVA SCOTIA.

A Bill for the establishment of a Normal School was passed in committee of the house, on the 22nd ult., by a large majority; but it was thrown out on the 24th, on the plea that the expense would be too great! A motion to rescind the last vote was before the house. A bill repealing the grant (£400 sterling per annum) to King's College, passed the House by 27 to 13, and was sent up to the Legislative Council.—[Pict.

The Rev. Dr. Cramp, of Montreal, has accepted office of President of Acadia College; and the charter of the college has been made perpetual. The annual grants for colleges and academies have been voted by the Assembly in committee of supply. The amounts are the same as last year, except to King's college, whose permanent grant of £400 sterling has been withdrawn, and £250 currency voted, as for other institutions in the province.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN

Items.—The subscriptions in support of the Manchester and Salford new Educational scheme exceed £7,000.—Of the very poorest classes in Liverpool, it is estimated there are under instruction in the charity schools of the town about 20,000.—The barristers, Messrs. Turner, Bethell, Keating, and Kenyon, have given an opinion, on request from certain parties in the University of Oxford, that the commission of inquiry is neither constitutional nor legal: that the members need not obey it; and that it cannot be supported by any authority of the Crown, either as visitor or under any prerogative, or other right.—The Dublin papers announce the constitution of the commission of inquiry into the University of Dublin: Archbishop Whately, Bishop Wilson, the Earl of Rosse, Chief Justice Blackburne, Commissioner Longfield, of the Encumbered Estates Commission, and Mr. Cooper, of Mackree Castle.—It is gratifying to notice