

John Rose, Esq., Dummer.—The distribution of prizes exerts a very good influence where it is observed.

Francois Dupuy, Esq., Sandwich West.—Prizes have been distributed in six sections (seven schools). The influence of that distribution has been encouraging, and without doubt has increased the number of children attending school, and stimulated them to punctuality.

S. Z. Barnhart, Esq., Streetsville.—It is conceded by all interested in the cause of education here, that the judicious distribution of prizes has largely contributed to the creation of a spirit of emulation among the pupils—to increased assiduity of study, and consequently to a more rapid progress in their educational advancement.

The Rev. Wilhelm Schmidt, New Hamburg.—The distribution of prizes exercises a beneficial influence in the most cases; but some regard the prizes merely as presents, and are dissatisfied if they receive none, even if they have attended the school but a few days during the year.

The Rev. Robert Campbell, Galt.—Hitherto there have been no prizes offered in the school, but teachers, trustees and superintendent have all come to believe that competition for them would have a beneficial stimulating effect, if wisely adjudged, and prizes have been accordingly announced to be competed for at the midsummer holidays.

The Rev. C. C. Johnson, Clinton.—The keenest competition was evidenced at our late examinations, and a most ready answering by many of the children, thus proving that the effect of prizes, judiciously chosen and impartially distributed, is most excellent.

Alexander Reid, Esq., Crowland.—An impetus has been given during last year to the bestowment of prizes, five out of seven schools having participated, and, so far as my knowledge extends, with beneficial effect; and whenever it has the effect of stirring up a spirit of generous emulation and friendly striving, great good must inevitably be the result.

The Rev. A. MacLennan, Tossorontio.—Some efforts have been made for the distribution of prizes next year (1865). The result so far has been very encouraging. It is my firm impression now that if there will be any obstacles in the way it will not be on the part of those who should be foremost in urging, helping and encouraging such efforts—the trustees. If it will be my lot to report in 1865, I do hope I shall be enabled to state that prizes are agreeably and profitably distributed in all our schools. There are objections to, and difficulties in connexion with, the distribution of prizes in our county schools. To avoid these, it is proposed to give the prizes according to the attendance, and a book to every pupil in the school.

The Rev. Robert Scott, Oakville.—Prizes have been given with very marked results for good, in so far as school education is concerned, if the number of lessons acquired and eagerness in study are to be reckoned as such.

Hector McRae, Esq., Charlottenburgh.—The few schools in which prizes have been distributed show that considerable influence can be derived from the system.

The Rev. James Black, Seneca.—During the past year only a small number of prizes have been given in the schools under my charge. In former years, the distribution of prizes frequently produced dissatisfaction and jealousy, and on this account the practice of distributing them has been discontinued. I think, however, that premiums, judiciously given, would stimulate the pupils to greater diligence, and result in their more rapid progress.

The Rev. John Gray, Oro.—I have long advocated the bestowment of prizes in connection with our school system, as calculated to promote healthy emulation, and to afford that degree of stimulus and encouragement so necessary to the youthful mind; but in a comparatively poor and remote district like this, it is difficult to persuade trustees to spend anything except what they deem essential to the bare working of the educational machinery.

William B. Inrie, Esq., Edwardsburgh.—As regards school requisites, viz., maps, apparatus, and prize books, I regret to have to state there is great destitution. Many have promised, and I trust will apply to the Department for some or all of these, and I am quite sure all ought to do so, since I know of none who are not perfectly able, many, if not all, having a sufficient sum of money on hand, which ought to be devoted to that purpose. Next to procuring the services of a good teacher, I do not know of anything which would so well repay them, or tend more to aid and encourage children in an enlightened and successful prosecution of their studies.

Andrew Irving, Esq., Pembroke.—At the last examination the trustees distributed a number of prizes, which I have no doubt will have the effect of causing an increased interest to be taken in education alike by parents, teachers and pupils.

Jonathan Wigfield, Esq., Mersea.—Prizes, to a small extent, have been distributed in three sections with good effect.

The Rev. James Whyte, Osgoode.—Our third annual public ex-

amination, of all the schools of the township was highly satisfactory—our county M.P. being present, as well as the reeve and township council, and all taking a lively interest in the proceedings. A number of prizes were given by the friends of education in the neighbourhood, besides those given by the township council.

John P. W. O'Falvey, Esq., M.D., Maidstone.—Prizes were distributed in one school, and they had a very salutary effect upon the children. I have no doubt but its continuance would be attended with happy results.

Trustees County Grammar School, Williamstown.—Prizes were distributed at the last half-yearly examination, and it is believed with very good effect. The prizes are decided mostly by examinations held at the close of every month on the work of the month, and the trustees are assured it is a most excellent plan.

J. Lawton Bradbury, Esq., M.A., Head Master Gananoque Grammar School.—A large number of prizes were distributed last Christmas, dependent partly upon the proficiency during the half-year, and partly upon a competitive paper examination in which the trustees were examiners. Universal satisfaction was felt with the awards.

John Haldan, Jun., Esq., Head Master Goderich Grammar School.—In this school, rewards consist of honourable distinction in the room, occasionally an afternoon for recreation, and books as premiums on public examination days.

John Tisdale, Esq., Chief Librarian, Wawanosh.—The Wawanosh Township Library is conducted under the superintendence of a chief librarian whose duty is to exchange the divisions of the library once a year, take receipts from the librarians, examine the books, report on their condition to the council, cover all books requiring it with wrapping paper, collect the prices of lost books, and fines. This is the fifth year I have been appointed chief librarian, and I have had no difficulty in collecting fines, &c., until lately. The works of fiction, travels, and history, are much read; books on the various sciences by but few.

2. VALUE OF COMPETITIVE SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

A correspondent of the *Ottawa Citizen* writes as follows:—Having derived much pleasure from, and witnessed the great advantages of a competitive examination of Common Schools held at North Gower, I am induced to make a suggestion that this excellent plan may be carried a step or two further. My suggestion is, that there be a general examination of the best pupils of all the townships in the County, as elicited at the local examinations. This would show who is the most proficient pupil in the County; or in the aggregate of such townships as will accept the annual general examinations. To such pupil I would award a Scholarship in the County Grammar School, tenable for three years. Thus, for the first year, one scholarship would have to be provided; for the second year, two; and for the third and succeeding year, three. The value of such scholarships might be either merely the exemption from school fees, or whatever more might be decided upon by the County Council, to which body we should naturally look to pay the expenses. In this way many a clever youth from the backwoods might be enabled to prepare for obtaining an Exhibition in the University, and eventually rising to eminence in his country, and possibly to one of the highest offices in the state. These suggestions apply only to the boys; but perhaps some plan might be adopted for rewarding the most proficient girl of each year by sending her to the Normal School, where she would be qualified for a first-class teacher, and thus secure a highly respectable position and a comfortable maintenance for life. I venture to throw out these hints for the consideration of those who feel an interest in the education of the young people of the County—an education which is, at present, confessedly imperfect; but which these township examinations, where they have been tried, show to be easily capable of improvement.

Correspondence of the Journal of Education.

3. MODE OF AWARDING PRIZES IN SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Journal of Education.

In compliance with your request, I transmit you the plan adopted in the model school of awarding prizes, and of recording the daily work of the pupils.

We make use of three means of stimulating the pupil to work. A monthly report to be taken to their parents, a monthly examination for promotion in the division, and a final examination for the awarding of prizes.

The monthly report contains an account of the recitations, perfect and imperfect, of deportment, good and bad, and of attendance, regular and irregular. This is all taken down in a few minutes, when the roll is called in the evening. This report is chiefly for the benefit of the parents, and the success attending it, depends much upon the interest taken in it by them.