

such a system could not be advantageously adopted, except in large towns or cities, supported by the combined influence of wealth and united opinion, as the salaries and other necessary costs in one of the Primary Schools would be considered quite sufficient to pay the general expenses of four or five schools in some townships. The Primary School children pay 12½ cents per month and those of the Central pay 25 cents. All books, stationery, &c., are provided by the Board and given gratis. In 1867 the whole school fees amounted to \$5,286.37, and the book and stationery accounts amounted to \$1037.37. The combined totals on the registers were 3,800 pupils, and the yearly average 2,522. The total yearly cost per pupil on average attendance and current expenditure was \$9.93. The teachers' salaries in the Primary Schools range from \$200.00 to 250.00. In the Central, the salaries of the female teachers range from \$260.00 to 320.00; the male teachers receive from \$500.00 to 1320.00: adding the cost of the Grammar School to those already mentioned, the total expense for the past year amounted to \$26,159.30, or \$1.19 per head on the entire city population; and the average expense per teacher (including three Grammar School Professors) was \$568.68. It is worthy of remark that the average attendance from year to year is overtaking or approximating to the number on the roll. In 1864, the average was 52 per cent; in 1865 it was 58; in 1866, it was 59; and in 1867, it advanced to 66 on the whole.

In the Grammar School there are 80 students taught by three teachers, whose yearly salaries are respectively 600, 800, and \$1,000.

In the Wesleyan Female College there are 100 boarders and 50 day scholars. This institution has one gentleman and nine lady professors, whose salaries vary from 350 to 750 dollars per annum. It is a large brick building six stories high, which had been built for a monster hotel. It has a very imposing outward appearance, and possesses, in a high degree, all the departments necessary for the various lecture rooms of a college and the personal accommodation and comfort of its fair students.

I must say the Loretto Convent, Mount St. Mary, stands unrivalled in Hamilton and its vicinity as a Seminary for young ladies. The happy pupils of this flourishing institution are instructed according to the laws of reason and religion; its title, under the superintendence of the Ladies of Loretto, is sufficient to inspire parents with the conviction that the children intrusted to their care, receive superior mental training, founded on purity and virtue; their unerring rule being to unite religious with secular instruction in training those who look to them for guidance and control. The great success resulting from their strict yet tender discipline, and untiring efforts in the cause of moral and intellectual education of young ladies, together with their refined art of communicating knowledge, universally prove them to be the true guides to female perfection. They draw out the purest, the brightest attributes of the soul, and eradicate the evil propensities that retard the growth of virtue in the heart. The personal comfort and general care that boarders enjoy in this institution are sufficient to satisfy every necessary desire. It is situated on a healthy elevation, commanding a fine view of the city and its delightful scenery, from which the eye can always draw beauty and pleasure to the mind, and where the heart can find a pure asylum for the development of its virtues and safety from the stain of error. Its gardens and extensive recreation grounds are really attractive and beautifully decorated by improvements that add many charms to its pleasing aspect.

The ladies of this religious community have about 140 boarders and day scholars under their charge. The course of instruction comprises every branch suitable to the education of young ladies. They receive tuition according to the wishes of their parents or guardians, in reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history (ancient and modern), elements of astronomy, botany, natural history, rhetoric and logic; English, French, Italian and German languages; harp, piano, melodeon and guitar, singing; oil-painting, Grecian oil-painting, painting on water colors pencil, pastile and monocromatic drawing, embroidery, plain and ornamental needle-work, &c.

There are three Separate Schools in a flourishing state, comprising ten divisions, with an equal number of well-trained competent teachers, carrying out a well organized distribution of labour, similar to that of Common Schools already described. Six of these divisions are under the charge of the good Sisters of St. Joseph, whose devoted and zealous labours in the cultivation of the heart as well as the intellect are truly admirable. They carefully instruct their pupils in the branches of a Common School education, together with moral and religious training, which must be admitted to be the true basis of solid and useful instruction. It is painful to contemplate the evil tendencies of children, whose instructors only make them proficient in the arts and adepts in purely temporal pursuits, as if these were the sole designs for which they were created: while they are kept in ignorance of their true and eternal destiny. The

moral condition of society becomes inevitably rotten when religious instruction is unnaturally denied its part in public education.

Like the refined and gifted Ladies of Loretto and other religious orders, the Sisters of St. Joseph teach according to virtuous motives and the dictates of a pure conscience, while the majority of the worldlings teach according to their salaries, or the personal applause for which they sigh. The lives of these Sisters being dedicated to the Almighty and to the instruction of youth, they aim at the true destiny of education, for which God has made this world a preparatory school. There is also an orphan asylum under the care of these good nuns, containing one hundred poor little abandoned orphans, who are well fed, clad, and educated by them, assisted by the charity of generous benefactors. The good example and moral culture imparted by these successful instructors, compared with the empty pomp of education void of religion, are similar to the fruits of a rich, fertile, but humble valley, smiling beneath the frowns of the proud barren mountains that surround it. Last year the registers of the ten Separate School divisions, showed a total number of 1080 children. Religion being an essential part of education, no person should dare profess to be educated without it. The celebrated, but dangerous, French philosopher, Jean Jacques Rousseau, says, "I once thought it possible to give our children a good education without religion, and be wise and virtuous without it; but I have abandoned long ago this most fatal error."

### III. Biographical Sketches.

#### 1. THE REV. WILLIAM AGAR ADAMSON, D.C.L.

In his sixty-eight year, after a life of usefulness and activity, Doctor Adamson has gone down to the grave, carrying with him the respect and love of thousands. Few who knew him but loved him; none but admired him. We take the following facts of his career from Mr. Morgan's *Bibliotheca Canadensis*: Wm. Agar Adamson was born in Dublin, on the 21st November, 1800. In July 1817, he entered Trinity College, Dublin, as a Gentleman Commoner, and in July, 1821, graduated as A.B., T.C.D. In 1845, having been appointed to the Incumbency of Amherst Island, near Kingston, Ontario, and Chaplain to Lord Sydenham, the first Governor General after the union of the two Provinces, Dr. Adamson came to Canada, and shortly afterwards was named Chaplain and Librarian to the Legislative Council, a position which he continued to hold from that time until the Union of the British American Colonies in 1867. In 1865 he acted as a Commissioner, with the late Mr. McGee and Mr. Devine, on behalf of Canada, at the Dublin Exhibition, and revisited his native land. As a preacher he was truly eloquent as ever graced the English pulpit; and we may mention that when resigning his appointment of Assistant Minister of Christ Church Cathedral, he was presented by the inhabitants of that city, of all religious denominations, with two costly silver salvers, on which were a thousand dollars in gold. Many of his printed discourses are models of literary elegance. His contributions in *Blackwood* and the *Dublin University Magazine*, and to the Canadian Magazines and periodicals, upon a vast variety of subjects, bear the impress of a cultivated taste and evince much power of thought. Of his productions those most generally known are: "The Sermon on the death of Lord Sydenham;" "Salmon fishing in Canada," &c.—*Ottawa Citizen*.

#### 2. LIEUT.-COL. A. W. PLAYFAIR.

Lieut.-Col. Andrew William Playfair was born in 1790, and was consequently 78 years of age at the time of his death. He came to this country in the year 1812, as a lieutenant in the 104th regiment. He served in the war of that period against the United States. At the time of the rebellion of 1837, Col. Playfair was one of the first to spring to arms in defence of British connexion, and was during the eventful period at the "front" with his men doing good service to his country. Loving, consistent, clinging loyalty to the crown and constitution of Great Britain was one leading feature in the character of Col. Playfair. He considered it his duty by precept and example—by word and deed—to strengthen the tie which binds us to the mother country, and was ever ready to give his valuable aid, and his aid was often very valuable to that end. The colonel being a staunch conservative, took a very active part in the celebrated British American league, which met shortly after the rebellion losses bill had passed in parliament, then sitting in Montreal. The excitement which resulted in the burning of the parliament buildings was then at its height, and a number of hot heads got up the annexation movement. It was sought to get the endorsement of the British American league for this movement, but Col. Playfair, like Col. Fraser of this place, was true to his colors, and fought against annexation, and the result was that the league repudiated