

Metropolitan Hall and Lafarge House, in this city. January 7, 1854.
 At Jersey City, thirty factories and houses destroyed. July 30, 1854.
 More than 100 houses and factories in Troy, N. Y.; on the same day a large part of Milwaukee, Wis., destroyed. August 25, 1854.
 At Syracuse, N. Y., about 100 buildings destroyed; loss, \$1,000,000. November 8, 1856.
 New York Crystal Palace destroyed, October 5, 1858.
 City of Charleston, S. C., almost destroyed, February, 17, 1865.
 At Quebec, Canada; 2,500 houses destroyed; loss, \$2,500,000.

VII. Educational Intelligence.

—GRAND DUKE ALEXIS.—While in Toronto the Grand Duke, accompanied by Lieut. Governor Howland, proceeded from the Queen's Hotel to visit the places of interest in the city, among which were the University and the Normal School, where he was received by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson; from thence he proceeded to Osgoode Hall.

—TRINITY COLLEGE UNIVERSITY.—At the recent convocation the following degrees were conferred B. A.:—John Austin Worrell, John Hamilton, Arthur Jarvis, Thomas Armstrong, John Warren Burnham, Charles Benson Dundas, John Edgar Reginald Gourlay, Rev. Wm. Massey, Llewellyn Geo. Morgan, Richard Barrington Nevitt, Thomas William Read, James White, Robert Wm. Hillary, James Hackett, J. M. Hart, A. L. McLaren, Henry Moorhouse, and James A. Robertson. M. A.:—Rev. Ephraim Horace Mussen, Rev. Alexander Shaw. M. D.:—Henry Orton. D. C. L.:—The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Huron, and the Venerable the Archdeacon of Assiniboine. Prizemen.—Robert Gregory Cox—Prince of Wales' Prize for 1870. 1st class in classical and mathematical honours, and the Chancellor's additional prize for double first prize. Pulteney Ford Ogden—Hamilton Memorial prize for 1871, and the Bishop's prize in divinity for 1871. John Austin Worrell—Classical prize in 3rd year, 1871, and Mathematical prize in 3rd year, 1871, and Prince of Wales' prize for 1st class in classics, 1871. William Cartwright Allen—Classical prize in 2nd year, 1871. John Hamilton—Prize in French, 1871. Reginald Gourlay—Prize for English Verse, 1871. A prize poem, on "The Isthmus of Suez" was recited by Mr. J. E. R. Gourlay. Admitted to the Divinity Class:—Robert Doherty, John Woodburn, Joseph Fennell, Percival Lawson Spencer. The following were admitted to Matriculation:—Francis Stewart Checkley, Charles Edmund Sills, Charles Cortes Fessenden, Sutherland Macklem, Richard William Garrett, Joseph Fennell, John Alexander Hannan, Herbert Bethune Patton, Percival Lawson Spencer, Morse Stewart, William H. Young. After a speech by the Chancellor touching the flourishing condition of the University, the proceedings were terminated by the Benediction, pronounced by the Bishop.

—LINDSAY SEPARATE SCHOOL.—A gymnasium has been built in connection with the Lindsay Separate School—104 feet long by 38 feet wide. Bishop Horan, of Kingston, visited it recently and expressed himself much pleased at the attention thus paid to physical training.

—SOUTH HASTINGS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The regular meeting of the South Hastings Teachers' Association was held in Belleville. The President, Mr. John Johnston, Inspector, occupied the Chair. After the usual routine of business was disposed of a discussion was introduced by Mr. Macoun, on the definition of the word "Teaching," and under this head the different methods of teaching were discussed, the general opinion being that all teaching, as far as practicable, should be by induction. The President, Mr. McGann, Irwin and others, taking part in the discussion. The President introduced the further consideration of the Limit Table, showing its superiority over the old Limit Table, and how admirably it was adapted to meet the present requirements. The Inspector also stated that as to all the schools he had visited since vacation, he had invariably classified them according to it, and that in those schools in which it had been introduced, it worked admirably; and that he hoped all the schools of South Hastings would soon be working by it.

A discussion on its merits followed, when it was moved by Mr. Macoun, seconded by Mr. Osborne, that "We, the Teachers of South Hastings, in Convention assembled, do hereby express our high approval of the 'Limit Table,' for the use and benefit of the Public Schools of the Province, as conducive to the best interests of our System of Education, and productive of beneficial advantages to the Teacher, in the faithful discharge of his onerous duties." Carried. Mr. Sprague, of Smithville, explained his method of teaching the first part of the first book. This method was objected to by Mr. McGann and Mr. Huntly, upon which an animated and lengthened discussion of the merits of the different systems of teaching followed, in which nearly all the teachers present took part, proving most conclusively the superiority of the new system (of teaching the word forms first and the letters at the head of each lesson afterwards,) to the old system of teaching the whole alphabet first. All those who had tried both stated decidedly that the new was one hundred per cent better than the old system. The President then proceeded to explain his method of teaching young children the rudiments of Grammar, and plainly showing how to make what is generally considered an irksome task, a pleasant exercise. In answer to the question, what Grammar was required, he replied Davie's Smaller Grammar; as the Larger Grammar was not intended for use in the Public Schools. The meeting was in every respect a most interesting, instructive, and pleasing one. The subjects for the next meeting are: "The difficulties of the Infinite Mood," to be opened by Mr. Goman. Mr. Squier is to show his method of teaching Object Lessons. "To what extent shall the Teacher assist the pupil?"—Mr. Macoun. "Grammar to advanced classes."—Mr. McGann. "The Rudiments of Arithmetic to young children."—Mr. Osborne:

—UNION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting of this Association took place in Galt on the 2nd Dec., 1871. Mr. J. Suddaby elected President; Mr. S. L. McRae, Vice-President; Mr. H. Dickenson, Secretary and Treasurer. Moved by Mr. Fullerton, seconded by Mr. Munro, "That the retiring officers, Messrs. Grey, Rodgers and Dickenson, receive the thanks of the Association for their services during the past year." Carried. Moved by Mr. Dickenson, seconded by Mr. McWilliam, "That Messrs. Grey, Suddaby, McRae and the mover be appointed as Committee to take into consideration the advisability of holding a conversazione for the purpose of raising funds necessary for the getting up of a Competitive Examination, open to the pupils of teachers who are members of this Association." Carried. Mr. McWilliam then gave his method of teaching the simple rules of arithmetic. The remaining exercises were allowed to stand over till next meeting. Business for next meeting: "A Lesson" by Mr. Beattie. Subject—Phonetic Method of teaching Reading. "An Essay" by Mr. Suddaby. Subject optional. "A Reading" by Mr. Dickenson. "A Lesson on Music" by Mr. McRae.

VIII. Departmental Notices.

THE NEW ACT AND SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

In reply to a question frequently asked, we desire to say that the new School Act and Regulations do *not* in any way affect the Separate Schools. It was not intended to affect them when the Act was passed; and it would be unjust to the supporters of these Schools thus to legislate for them indirectly, and without their knowledge. The Inspectors will, therefore, be particular not to apply the Act, or any of the new Regulations to Separate Schools.

TRUSTEES' INCOMPLETE RETURNS.

Some Inspectors complain of the very great incompleteness of many of the annual reports received from Trustees of rural sections, and ask what they should do with them? By reference to the reports themselves, Trustees will see that the Inspectors are directed to return to them all incomplete or incorrect reports.