In 1853 and 1868 these three items stood as follows:—

	1853.	1868.
Institutions	2,352	3,913
Scholars	108,284	212,838
Contributions	$165,848	$792,819

Showing that while the schools have not doubled in number, the scholars have done so very nearly, and the contributions have increased nearly five-fold.

The number of Protestant Dissentient schools was 143, with 4,893 pupils. A considerable portion of the report is taken up with answers by different parties on the best methods of teaching agriculture in Normal schools.

Some of the statistics give curious glimpses of the tendencies of the time, and the progress of the two languages spoken in the Province. For instance, in a tabular view of the studies pursued in the superior institutions, we have 12,819 French pupils studying English, and 3,650 English studying French. While only 7,376 are studying French composition out of 48,760, there are 5,177 trying to compose in English; and while 2,262 are studying the history of France, 2,134 are studying that of England, and 8,666 that of Canada. The number of Catholic pupils in these institutions is 41,436; that of Protestants 7,270, or a little more than one-sixth. In the Common schools 23,896 are studying English Grammar, and 55,041 French. Only 49 male teachers receive upwards of $400 salary, while 34 receive less than $100. Of female teachers 1,708 receive less thon $100, only 2 receive $400 or upwards, and the lowest salary any lady teacher gets is $25.

Matters are improving educationally in the Province of Quebec, though not at a very rapid rate. A large number of children must be growing up in ignorance, we fear, but we are happy to record that progress is being made.—*Globe.*

5. ASTRONOMY IN TORONTO.

It must be admitted that astronomical science has not received much attention as yet in Canada. Perhaps it may be urged that we have not as yet got so far advanced as a nation to afford such luxuries. A quick, and, if possible, a large return for any outlay of time or money, is what is especially sought for, and this, it may be thought, is not likely to be found in astronomy, and some of the kindred sciences. If, however, we have not got the length of our neighbours over the way, in this respect, and still less of others in Europe, it is to be hoped that we soon shall. In the manufacture of astronomical instruments, and their practical application, the United States are emulating and bidding fair to outstrip older countries, as is exemplified in the fact that one of the largest refracting telescopes in the world belongs to Chicago University, and is now employed for a work of surpassing magnitude. Australia has also, of late, taken an active part in astronomical science; and though the great Melbourne telescope has as yet so far failed to accomplish what was expected from it, yet its very construction, and the regret expressed at its seeming failure, are encouraging.

It is a noteworthy fact that many of the more celebrated telescopes have been made by the owners themselves, as for instance those of the two Herschels, Lord Rosse, Lassel, Nasmyth, &c.; and in various countries at the present time, a large number of persons, some of large means, and others in the humbler spheres of life, are devoting a large amount of both time and money to the advancement of astronomical science; and though, as we have said, Canada has in this matter as yet done little, it cannot be said that she has done nothing. A few years ago astronomical telescopes were rarely to be seen among us. Now both refractors and reflectors are in constant use. Two of the reflector class, we are glad to state, have been made in Toronto, by Mr. Mungo Turnbull, during his spare hours after his daily toil as a cabinet-maker. One of them is a metallic speculum, of the Herschelian kind, and of 7 inches aperture; the other is a Newtonian reflector, of nearly 12 inches aperture, with silvered glass specula. This latter instrument was shown at our late Provincial Exhibition, but could not be tested or judged of under the circumstances. Such tests, however, have since been applied as proves that it is an exceedingly powerful instrument. Practical observers know that there are certain objects which afford good tests of the optical qualities of an instrument, such as the small blue attendant of Vega; the debilissima of Sir John Herschel in the constellation Lyra; the components of Gamma Andromedæ; the four stars forming the trapezium in the nebula of Orion, the Moon, Jupiter, &c. A few gentlemen, familiar with these objects, last week tested Mr. Turnbull's reflector, and the results were of the most satisfactory character. The different colours on the belts of Jupiter were seen distinctly; as were also the four stars of the trapezium, and all the others we have mentioned. The construction of such an instrument reflects the very highest credit upon Mr. Turnbull's ingenuity and perseverance. It contains all the latest improvements, and from the particular way in which they are silvered, its mirrors are found to give about one-third more light than the old kind. We have no doubt that Mr. Turnbull would be very happy to see any who take a lively interest in his favourite science; and would be happy to allow experts to test his instrument in any reasonable manner. It might contribute a good deal to innocent amusement, as well as to the encouragement of a taste for astronomical science, were such an instrument open to the use of the public at a moderate charge. Many would be only too happy to have a peep at the moon, planets and fixed stars, through a really good instrument, if it could be had at a reasonable price.—*Globe.*

II. Intercom. with the "Journal of Education."

1. PRIZES TO TEACHERS IN THE COUNTY OF LANARK.

We heartily recommend the following interesting and suggestive letter to our readers—especially to members of County Boards of Public Instruction. The example of the Perth and other Boards mentioned, is worthy of all praise.

We have long wished some of our correspondents to give us the results of their practical experience in this Department of school work. This letter not only furnishes us with the desired information, but is rich in valuable suggestions as to what has and can be done to stimulate teachers, and to raise high the standard of their qualifications.

We trust that the commendable example of the County Council, will be followed elsewhere. It will be money well and worthily expended; and will tend greatly to encourage teachers to fit themselves for the highest place in their profession.

The details relating to the mode of examination of teachers and its results, will be found to be most interesting and valuable.—[*Editor Journal of Education.*]

To the Editor of the Journal of Education, Toronto:—

SIR,—It will be, no doubt, gratifying to many of your readers who take a lively interest in the advancement of education to learn that the Boards of Public Instruction of the County of Lanark will give prizes to candidates for teacher's certificates of first and second class, at the next examination of teachers on the 13th December next. There are four Boards in the County of Lanark. One of these, viz., the Board of Perth Circuit, at its last meeting, in May last, passed a resolution that,—with the view of encouraging the practice of writing compositions, it was advisable to give prizes at the next examination of teachers to the writers of the three best compositions. It was also deemed advisable to give prizes for general proficiency to three candidates of each sex who shall have obtained the highest merit number of marks in the first and second class. The Perth Board invited the co-operation of the other Boards to petition conjointly, the County Council at its June session for money to purchase books to be given in prizes. The Council granted the sum of one hundred and forty-five dollars ($145.00), which was distributed among the several Boards proportionately to the number of candidates who generally come before each board for examination, as follows, to the Perth Board $50.00; to Carleton Place Board, $40.00; to Smith Falls Board, $35.00, and to Packenham Board, $20.00. The Council expressed a wish that the Boards would adopt an uniform system of examination.

SIMULTANEOUS AND UNIFORM SYSTEM OF EXAMINATION.

To comply with the desire of the Council, delegates from the several Boards of the county met at Smith Falls on the 13th of July last, and resolved that the examination of teachers should be held by all the Boards on the same day; that all the questions for the examinations should be the same. And with the view of determining in a more precise and uniform manner the standing of each candidate in the subjects examined, they (the delegates) adopted the system of marks in use by the Board of Perth. They framed rules for the distribution of prizes. They made a list of subjects for composition, so that candidates might study them, and be prepared to write on any one of the subjects of this list, which may be chosen by ballot at the next examination.

The programme for the examination of teachers requires candidates to be able "to write grammatically with correct spelling and