

good, however, when its possessor is a man of unusual wisdom himself, or when conscious of his own weakness, he regularly seeks for counsel from those who are best qualified to give advice. Unfortunately the rector of Toronto Collegiate Institute cannot be placed in either of these classes. Power has simply made him an autocrat, who does not deign to consult even the teachers of his staff concerning any matters relating to the school. This betrays a great lack of consideration for others, and is certainly not calculated to lead to the development of a spirit of enthusiastic devotion on the part of his assistants. But the want of courtesy to his fellow teachers is not by any means the worst result of the rector's system of management. A writer in the *Toronto World* aptly characterizes his leading characteristic as "uneradicable old fogeyism." Unrestricted power when allied with "old fogeyism" always leads to the same result. One of the numerous evidences that the rector should have lived at an earlier date, is the fact that even with only five or six pupils in a class, he insists on having the sexes taught separately, without apparently being able to see that he thus reduces the teaching power of his masters one-half by limiting their time, or doubles the cost of tuition to the citizens. The result of this and other ancient customs naturally is that the Toronto Collegiate Institute has fallen behind others in much smaller places. It does not attempt such complete and thorough courses of education as some sister institutes with much poorer facilities than it possesses, and so the people of Toronto have to suffer the humiliation of seeing some of the brightest pupils from public schools go to other cities for the higher education for which then pay at home, and which they have a right to expect in their own city. A notable instance of this kind has recently attracted considerable attention. Miss Eliza Balmer, with whose brilliant success at the University our readers are familiar, was a graduate from Toronto public schools. She went for a time to the Toronto Collegiate Institute, hoping to gain the higher training she desired, but she soon reached the limit laid down by the Rector's fogeyism, and was reluctantly compelled to go to St. Catharines to complete her course. She obtained there what her own city could not give her, and St. Catharines has the credit that ought to have belonged to Toronto. St. Catharines is deserving of the honor, but what about Toronto? Are the trustees of the Institute satisfied to leave still in the Rector's hands the power which he has shown himself so incapable of using to the best advantage? They must remember, that while they should not be held directly responsible for the details in the management of the school, they are responsible for placing at its head a man who will keep pace with the progress of the age.

It is not a satisfactory defence of the management of the Institute in Toronto to urge that its pupils have taken some honors at the University. When it is remembered that large numbers of clever students come from the country to the school, attracted by the reputation of the many educational institutions in Toronto, and that the best pupils of the public schools in the largest city in Ontario are annually sent to it the wonder is not that honors have been taken, but that they have been so

few. We hope that in justice to the able assistants on the staff, and to the citizens of Toronto and their children, the Trustees will clear away the cobwebs, and place their institute where it ought to be, at the head of the high schools of the province.

CRAMMING BY TRUSTEES.

The primary departments of very many schools are seriously overcrowded—an evil which inflicts much discomfort and suffering upon infant pupils too young to understand the cause of their misery, and unable to make its extent fully appreciated by those who have power to remove it. More than any other class in the school the junior division needs ample cubical space for perfect ventilation, and abundant floor room for marching to music, for gymnastics, for motion songs, and such-like appropriate exercises. We are aggrieved by having as many as eighty, ninety, yes, sometimes more than a hundred, little children placed in charge of one teacher, to whom the smallest salary on the pay-sheet is allotted. But the small, badly lighted, ill-ventilated rooms into which these large troops of abecedarians are closely packed render effective management a physical impossibility. To squeeze young children together on crowded benches and thus prevent that freedom of motion which is half a child's happiness, to cut off the proper supply of pure air, and pen up these innocent beings in a foetid, poisonous atmosphere, with insufficient light is a work fit for some Surajah Dowlah. But this is what "Trustees' Cram" effectually accomplishes. It does, we respectfully submit, much more permanent mischief to the rising generation than all the "Teachers' Cram" about which we are accustomed to read in the public press.

FIRE PANICS.

We repeat the note of warning given in the April number. Since the lamentable affair in the German Catholic School in New York last winter, another deplorable accident of the same kind has occurred. One day lately a boy suddenly cried "Fire!" and, although the alarm was false, the panic which ensued resulted in some twelve or fifteen deaths, and numerous severe injuries. If any such calamity should happen in one of our own schools, trustees and teachers will find little consolation for their grief in the reflection that after due warning they neglected to take the proper precautions. Narrow, crooked stairs, especially, are death-traps. Doors opening inward are death-traps. Small cloak-rooms with only a single door are death-traps. Large schools with upper storeys should have fire-drill every few weeks. Now is the proper time to make all needed alterations in halls, stairways, doors, &c.

Since the above paragraph was in type, there has come such a fearful confirmation of its truth as we hope never to hear again. At Sunderland, England, a terrible scene occurred on the evening of June 16. About 1200 children were in the gallery of Victoria Hall. At the close of the performance, the children hurried down stairs. At the top of the first flight of