

Writing class with heads one way—
And tongues all out for a holiday!
Hark to the goose-quill's spattering grate,
Rasping like an awkward skate,
Swinging round in mighty B's,
Lazy X's and crazy Z's!
Here a scholar, looking solemn,
Blunders up a crooked column,—
Pisa's own Italic tower,
Done in slate in half an hour,
Figures piled in a mighty sum;
He wets a finger, and down they come?

Aproned urchin, aged five,
Youngest in the humming hive,
Standing by the Master's knee,
Calls the roll of A, B, C.
Frightened hair all blown about,
Buttered lips in half a pout,
Knuckle boring out an eye,
Saying "P" and thinking "pie,"
Feeling for a speckled bean,
"Twixt each breath a dumb ravine,
Like clock unwound, but going yet,
He slowly ticks the alphabet:
"A-ah—B ah—C ah—D,"
Finds the bean and calls for "G."

See that crevice in the floor—
Slender line from desk to door,
First meridian of the school—
Which all the scholars toe by rule.
Ranged along in rigid row,
Inky, golden, brown and tow,
Are heads of spellers high and low,
Like notes in music sweet as June.
Dotting off a dancing tune.

Boy of Bashan takes the lead,—
Roughly thatched his bullet head;—
At the foot an eight year old,
Stands with head of trembling gold:
Watch her when the word is missed!
Her eyes are like an amethyst,
Her fingers dove-tailed, lips apart;
She knows that very word by heart!
And swings like any pendulum,
Trembling lest it fail to come.
Runs the word along the line,
Like the running of a vine,
Blossoms out from lip to lip—
Till the girl in azure slip
Catches breath and spells the word,
Flits up the class like any bird,
Cheeks in bloom with honest blood,
And proudly stands where Bashan stood!

Evening reddens on the wall—
"Attention!" Now—"Obeisance all!"
The girls' short dresses touch the floor,
They drop their courtesies at the door;
The boys jerk bows with jack-knife springs,
And out of doors they all take wings!

Vanished all—all changed as death:
Life is not the counted breath.
The slanting sun low in the West,
Brings to the Master blessed rest.
See where it bridges afternoon,
And slopes the golden day-time down.
As if to him at last was given,
An easy grade to restful Heaven!
His hair is silver—not with light,
His heart is heavy—not with night.
Dying day the world has kissed,
Good-night, sweethearts! The school's dismissed!

Scribner.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.



Ministry of Public Instruction.

NOTICE.

We would call the attention of correspondents to the fact that all communications with this Department must be prepaid, as unpaid letters or papers will not be withdrawn from the Post Office.

Under this head we wish to notify those whom it may concern, that the postage on School reports, census, &c., is at the rate of one cent the ounce; also that books, and manuscript intended for the press, are charged at the rate of one cent for every two ounces, provided that one end of the envelope surrounding them, or part of it be left open.

SCHOOL MUNICIPALITIES.

Quebec, 12th November 1874.

The Lieutenant Governor has been pleased, by order in council, dated the 3rd of November instant, and in virtue of the powers conferred on him by the 30th clause of chapter 15 of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada.

1. To erect into a separate school municipality the territory of the parish of Sainte Justine, in the county of Dorchester, comprising the whole of township Langevin, and from the said township that part of township Ware, reaching to number twenty-eight and twenty-two of the fourth range and up to number thirty-three of the third.

2. To separate from township Gore, in the county of Argenteuil, the township of Wentworth, in the same county, and erect it into a district school municipality, under the same name and with the same limits which it has as a township.

3. To erect into a distinct school municipality the new parish of Saint Gabriel, in the county of Rimouski, such as erected for other civil purposes by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, dated the sixth day of December last.

4. To erect into a distinct school municipality the new parish of Saint-Paul de la Croix, in the county of Temiscouata, with the same limits as those which have been assigned to it as a canonical parish.

5. To detach from the municipality of Mont Carmel, in the county of Kamouraska, that part of the properties of Messrs. Achille Deschênes, Pierre Dionne, David Dumais, junior, Antoine Lavoie, François Miville, François Alexandre, Alexandre Santarre, and Joseph Antil, junior, which belong to the said municipality and annex it to the municipality of Saint-Philippe de Neri, in the same county, for school purposes.

6. To detach from the municipality of Saint Roch, in the county of l'Islet, the part hereinafter described, bounded, on the north-east by the boundary line between the properties of Ferdinand Gagnon and Elzéar Arton, on the north-west side by the road separating the first and second ranges, on the south-west side by the by-road running between the properties of Elzéar Michaud and Elzéar Caron, on the south-east side by the road between Saint-Roch and Sainte-Louise, except Octave Marié, Elzéar Michaud and Jean-Baptiste Caron, to annex it to the school municipality of Sainte-Louise, at it is already for other purposes.

7. To detach from the municipality of Shipton, in the county of Richmond, lot number twenty three, in the eighth range of the township of that name, and to annex it for school purposes, to the municipality of Cleveland, in the same county.

BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

The Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased, by order in council, dated the 3rd of November instant, and under and in virtue of the powers conferred on him by the 2nd article of the 64th clause of chapter 15, of the consolidated statutes of Lower Canada: