

dering eyes of the student within, while a juicy thistle reared its head through the holes in the flooring. In consequence, when the school assembled under its next head, William Irwin, M.A., of Cambridge, it met in a wing of Archdeacon Stuart's residence, now occupied by some of the faculty of Queen's University. Mr. Irwin held the post ten years and was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Mair, but the school was now feeling keenly the competition of the Preparatory School attached to Queen's, and its attendance fell away to a very scanty showing. In consequence, in September, 1861, negotiations were opened for amalgamation, and in February, 1862, these were completed, Mr. J. May being head master. He, however, resigned almost immediately, and was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Woods, M.A., (Tor.), now head of the Collegiate Institute at London, Ont. He continued to manage the school with success for fourteen years, when he resigned to go into business, and Mr. A. P. Knight, M.A. (Queen's), M.D. (Victoria), the present Principal, himself a former pupil of the Institute, was installed.

Kingston School cannot boast much

of its buildings, in which respect more than one of the common schools of the city surpass it, but it may claim some fame for the number of public men it has supplied to Canada. Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Alexander Campbell under Wilson, Oliver Mowat under Mr. Banter, Sir R. Cartwright under Lightbourne and Irwin, Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick under Irwin, were all pupils of the old school, with others whom it would be tedious to enumerate. Far and wide over the world are scattered former pupils, or, alas, their graves. Australia, Chili, California, have representatives, living or dead, of the Limestone City, who learned their delectus at the feet of some of those who swayed the cane or the raw-hide from behind the old railed desk. Not a few found their way to the Old Country seats of learning, and won academic honours in their halls. And we well believe there are few, if any, of all who ever played in the grounds of Kingston's Grammar School, who would not be ready to wish success to the Kingston Collegiate Institute. *Floreat Etona. Nomine mutato de te fabula.* The quotation will not do, it is no fable but solemn truth.

## EXAMINATIONS IN COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS.

BY BARR FERREE.

**E**XAMINATIONS for ascertaining knowledge. It is a question of some moment whether an examination based on written questions and with written answers really accomplishes its desired end. These examinations invariably rest heaviest on the best students, who feel the necessity of preparation and realize the danger and the disgrace of failure. These men enter the examination hall fully realizing the responsibilities before them. It is absurd to talk of no

cramming, or of reducing it to a minimum. No examination has yet taken place of which due notice has been given, for which the best, the most careful and studious, the most attentive and quick have not made weeks of preparation in the way of review and in memorizing certain facts. The traditions of many colleges abound with stories of particular questions the professors are sure to ask, and no matter how careful a student may be, nor how thorough and wide his gen-