

certainly. Let township superintendents, teachers and trustees but co-operate with the state superintendent and such other persons as may have an influence in waking up the public mind to the subject, and the work will be accomplished. Let the question be discussed at the teachers' institutes this fall. Let the state agent's suggestions on this point be heeded. Let teachers wake up to their duty, and become themselves the patrons and exemplars in their respective sections. Let them present the matter to their pupils, in a way that shall stimulate to reading, and lead to discrimination between the good and the bad. Then shall the libraries be cherished as the choicest treasure of the school section, and the inhabitants be elevated to the position which they were intended to fill. See page 178.

NOBLE EXAMPLES.

A gentleman called at the Educational Department, Toronto, a few days since in behalf of the Warden of the County of Waterloo, for books to the amount of £25, for prizes to be given to the best scholars in that County, as tested by a Public Examination to be held in the County Court House at Berlin, 27th December next—the youthful competitors to be selected from all the Common Schools of the County that are disposed to compete, and to be known at the examination, not by names, but by numbers affixed to the breast of each. The Examination is to be conducted by Mr. J. H. SANGSTER, (Principal of the Central School, Hamilton,) who came to the Normal School at Toronto in 1847, a lad about 18 years of age, and slenderly qualified for admission; but who, by his talents and industry, and the system of training that he has had, has become one of the most able and accomplished Teachers in Canada, if not in America. The Central School at Hamilton contains upward of 1,000 pupils, and with this School are connected Primary Schools for small children—one or more in each Ward of the City—but all under Mr. SANGSTER'S oversight, and taught by Teachers trained in the Normal School. From these Primary Schools, the pupils are drafted into the Central School, through the several divisions of which a pupil may advance until he acquires a thorough English Education. The City of Hamilton has the most complete system of Schools of any City in Upper Canada; and its Central School House will advantageously compare with many a College, in the extent of its accommodations and the style of its architecture, provided, as it is, with play-yards, gymnasia, &c.,—all the product of local intelligence and enterprise, under the operations of the present School Law and System since the year eighteen hundred and fifty.

The example of the County Council of Waterloo, in expending £25 in prizes for the encouragement of good scholarship in its Schools, is an enlightened step in the right direction, and cannot fail to improve the Schools, by prompting both Teachers and Pupils to increased exertions. If large sums of money are expended by the Provincial, County, and Township Agricultural Societies as prizes for the best specimens of cattle, grains, &c., it is surely proper to furnish at least equal encouragement for the best productions of our Common Schools—the Colleges of the great majority of the people—the true bulwarks of public liberty, the grand engines of national civilization and advancement.

We are also happy to observe that several prizes have been offered by private individuals in different parts of Upper Canada for the encouragement of Teachers and Pupils of the Common Schools. See page 184.

TO TRUSTEES AND LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS.—Blank forms for the annual and semi-annual returns of Trustees will be sent out immediately from the Educational Department to the *Local Superintendents*, for distribution, and not to the Trustees direct, as heretofore.

NORMAL AND MODEL SCHOOLS EXAMINATION.

The examination of the Students of the Normal School took place on the 12th of last month. On the platform in the theatre were seated the Chief Superintendent; the Hon. J. H. Gray, a member of the executive Government of New Brunswick; the Hon. John S. Saunders, a member of the Legislative Council of the same Province; the Rev. H. J. Grasett, B. D.; Prof. Wilson. L. L. D.; Rev. A. Green, D. D., &c., &c.

At the conclusion of the examination at half past four o'clock, the Chief Superintendent rose and expressed his thankfulness that amidst the disease and death of the past summer, they were all so happily preserved to the close of the session. He congratulated the students on the successful termination of their labors for the present.

Our system of education was one which developed individual independence in its highest and best sense; it called forth self-reliance and those other virtues which adorn the human character. The test of the standing of the student was not, strictly speaking, applied in the oral examinations just closed, but in written answers to written questions which had been proposed to them during the week. By that they would be judged and not by failure or success on the present occasion.

As he had just seen the official appointment of the successor of His Excellency, the Earl of Elgin, who has been graciously pleased to institute the prizes (which he had requested the Hon. Mr. Gray to distribute,) he could not but acknowledge the great consideration and attention which this institution had ever received at the hands of His Excellency. It was a striking fact that the Earl of Elgin was the first Governor who had officially and personally, on all occasions, referred to this institution and school system in terms of the highest commendation and praise. He would request the Hon. Mr. Gray of New Brunswick, as his representative on the present occasion, to distribute His Excellency's prizes.

The Hon. Mr. Gray, in rising expressed his regret at not being in a position to do more justice to the present occasion and to the noble donor of the prizes before him. He had, since his arrival, carefully studied the system as exemplified by this institution, and particularly in the Model Schools. The answering of the children there surprised and delighted him. He could not but be pleased with what he witnessed, as it was spontaneous and not the result of preparation. He was certain that the prizes which Dr. Ryerson had honored him by requesting him to distribute, would be regarded by the successful competitors not so much as a tribute to their own individual exertions, as that they would operate as a stimulus to incite others to diligence and success in the profession in which they were engaged. From the result of their labors which he had just witnessed in the examination, he had almost come to the conclusion that mental enlightenment was indigenous to the soil of Canada, but looking at that system itself he felt that it was the system alone which contained the germs of success, and not that any individual or provincial superiority was apparent. He hoped that the official visits of himself and his colleague would result in introducing into their own province a system which had produced such noble fruit in Canada. He was certain the value of education was as deeply felt in this province as it was 2,000 years ago in the classic land of Greece; that it was still a solace, a friend, a comfort, which no climate could destroy and no adversity alienate. Under its benign influences he looked forward to this western part of the empire yet occupying the highest position even among the great nations of the earth.

He had great pleasure indeed in presenting to the successful competitors, on behalf of the Governor General of British America, the two prizes so munificently established in this institution by His Excellency Lord Elgin.—The hon. gentleman then handed the prizes to Miss Robinson and Mr. Fotheringham, the successful competitors, and resumed his seat amid loud applause.

The Hon. Mr. Saunders, at the request of Dr. Ryerson, then stepped forward, and expressed his delight at what he had witnessed since his arrival in Canada. Twenty years ago he had been in Toronto, but he now looked in vain for any traces of the then insignificant seat of this beautiful town. Its res-