

ascertained and established fact that such buildings more than pay for themselves, by the additional value which they give to property and rents in the towns, or school wards of cities, within which they are situated. We were therefore assured, that no complaint is ever made against paying any amount of taxes whatever for school purposes.

5. Should a Canadian visitor, who is familiar with the methods of teaching pursued in our Normal and Model Schools, enter one of the spacious school-houses in Boston, and witness the exercises and examination of the pupils, he would be struck with the similarity of the methods of teaching adopted in Boston and being introduced into Canadian schools,—the method of teaching to observe, investigate, and think, and not merely to remember—the method of teaching principles and things, and not merely rules and words, of exercising all the faculties, rather than loading the memory, of drawing out and developing the powers of the mind, rather than of cramming it. There are also two other features of the Boston schools worthy of note and imitation—namely, the prominence given to *vocal music and linear drawing*; both taught to an extent truly creditable and really surprising, and that without the least interference with other studies—thus familiarising the eye and the hand with the handy work of nature and art, and attuning the heart and voice to the praise of nature's God.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES OF THE BOSTON RAIL-ROAD CELEBRATION.

One kind of manufacture received full honor here, however, viz., the manufacture of educated, intelligent, and useful men and women. The far-famed Common Schools of Boston were represented with the pupils seated each at his or her neat desk, just as they appear at school, only better dressed, and when the long procession reached the Common, it passed between school boys and school girls, marshalled by their teachers, and ranged under the trees on each side of the road, to the number, we understood, of 7000. This was a sublime spectacle, and no language can express the impression it made on the mind. Our French Canadians especially appeared delighted with it, appreciating as they evidently did its importance, as an element of the general prosperity which was exhibited around. The leading characteristics of this great exhibition, as indeed of New England generally, may be summed up in two short phrases, which it would be well for every nation to engrave upon its public sentiment, viz.: "The dignity of labor," and "The necessity of education." The dignity of labor was every where manifested by the respect paid to it, and to the men and women engaged in it, as well as by the self respect which they evidently cherished. George IV. called the Scotch a nation of gentlemen, and this might emphatically be repeated concerning the hundreds of thousands engaged in the Boston Celebration, all of whom, so far as we saw, were well dressed, orderly, and courteous. The arrangement of such a procession must have been no ordinary task, even in Boston, and did great credit to the Marshals, but in a drinking and uneducated city, it would have been impracticable—*Correspondent of the Montreal Witness.*

Our first visit was to the House of Correction, an institution for the reformation of offenders, in some respects similar to our own Provincial Penitentiary, but much smaller. It is exclusively under the controul and for the use of the city, and is in a great measure self-supporting, the prisoners being hired out to contractors, who are provided with men and workshops within the premises, but find their own materials and machinery. I noticed among other things, the manufacture of buttons, combs, brass fittings for carriages, and japanned work by the men—shirts and other needle work by the women. The number of prisoners is about 500; the males and females being confined in separate wings of the building; the cost of maintenance is \$30,000, of which \$20,000 is repaid to the Corporation for prisoners' work. We next visited the Lunatic Asylum for incurable patients—a class of people hitherto most shamefully neglected in Canada. This is an old building, and deficient in many modern improvements; but the patients are carefully kept, and not subjected to any violent restraints. Even the worst cases

are open for inspection; and however revolting it may be to our feelings, to see the unhappy condition of these poor creatures, I cannot but think it a wise precaution, to dispense with all secret imprisonment. It is but right to add, that they are incessantly attended, and that there was in no case, any want of cleanliness visible. From this melancholy place, we drove to the House of Reformation for juvenile offenders, delightfully situated on the brow of a steep bank overlooking the harbour—indeed, all these institutions are located in South Boston, four or five miles from the centre of the city, and in a very lovely and salubrious position, with extensive grounds attached to each. The House of Reformation afforded us great pleasure; here are educated, not only juvenile offenders generally, *including truants from the free schools*, but the whole pauper children of the city. A separate wing is devoted to each class. Those not confined for offences, are educated in the same manner as at the free schools, and fed and clothed at the public expense. In the opposite wing, the convict children are taught precisely the same course of instruction as the pauper boys, except that half their time is devoted to hard-work, which consists partly in farming labour out of doors, and partly in making shoes within. There are separate girls' schools, which we did not see. The whole of these boys appeared to be perfectly happy, whether at work or in school; and their food, which we inspected, is of the best kind, as indeed is the case at all the before mentioned establishments. There is an alms-house for paupers, and the Corporation are now erecting a new and very large building for pauper immigrants, on the opposite side of the bay, but it is unfinished, and we did not visit it. If I remember rightly, the cost was estimated at \$100,000.

Having expressed a good deal of curiosity, which the sight of the school-children on the previous day was well calculated to sharpen, respecting the details of their school system, we were finally escorted to the "Bigelow School House," an immense brick building of four or five stories. These schools are all named after various distinguished Bostonians—this being so styled in honour of the present Mayor—not because of any endowment bestowed upon them, but by way of distinction merely. There are, I think, 180 of them in all, but the Bigelow School is the latest erected, and possesses therefore the most recent improvements. I am not sufficiently conversant with such matters to express an opinion as to the relative merits of school systems, and can only say, that the Bigelow School appeared to possess every requisite for the instruction of the pupils, and many more contrivances for their personal comfort than I remember to have seen in any similar institution, collegiate or otherwise. The ground on which the building stands cost the city \$10,000; the building itself \$40,000 more, or over £20,000 currency. Each room is appropriated to a class, restricted to 56 or 60 pupils; there may be twenty or thirty such rooms in this school, with a large and lofty hall above for special occasions. In every school in Boston, including the House of Reformation, there is provided a piano forte, and singing is regularly taught. I have already mentioned, that the children of all classes are associated together in these free schools, excepting a very few whose parents are wealthy enough to provide private instruction, or who prefer boarding schools, mostly under the care of Clergymen of various denominations. Every man is *compelled* to cause his children to be instructed, under the penalty of fine and imprisonment; every child is *compelled* to attend school, on pain of being sent to hard work at the House of Reformation. If he prefer the hard work, he stays there; if he promises to attend school regularly, he is released from confinement; if he transgresses again, he is sent back to confinement and hard labour until he submits to *his fate*. Without expressing any opinion as to the merits of this seemingly despotic system, I cannot in fairness avoid saying, that its results appear to be highly conducive to the objects of its projectors—viz: to secure uniform good conduct among the poorer citizens, and to enable every child to start fairly in the unceasing contest for wealth which appears to be going on in Boston, and every where else in the United States.

In regard to the dinner, to my mind, decidedly the finest speech of the day was that made by the Hon. Edward Everett, late Ambassador at the Court of St. James, to describe which, I will again borrow from the correspondent of a New York paper. "When the first note of Edward Everett's voice was heard, the chord of the master-hand was revealed. That sweet and strong enunciation—