

When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky ;
 So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
 With the sleigh full of toys and St. Nicholas too,
 And then, in a twinkling I heard on the roof,
 The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
 As I drew in my head and was turning around,
 Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
 He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
 And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot,
 A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
 And he looked like a pedlar just opening his pack.
 His eyes—how they twinkled ! his dimples how merry !
 His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry !
 His dear little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
 And the beard of his chin was white as the snow.
 The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
 And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath.
 He had a broad face and little round belly,
 That shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly,
 He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
 And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself :
 A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
 Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
 He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
 And filled all the stockings ; then turned with a jerk,
 And laying his finger aside of his nose,
 And giving a nod up the chimney he rose.
 He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
 And away they all flew like the down of a thistle—
 But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
 " Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night ! "

V. Departmental Notices.

GRAMMAR AND COMMON SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

Two Grammar School Trustees of each Board retire from office on the 31st of January. Their successors are to be appointed by the county, city, or town municipal councils concerned at an early meeting during that month.

The election of Common School Trustees takes place throughout Upper Canada on Wednesday the 9th of January, 1867, and must, in each case, be concluded on that day. The proceedings commence at 10 o'clock a.m., and cannot be brought to a close before 11 o'clock. In case a poll is demanded, they may be prolonged until 4 p.m., provided a vote be tendered during each hour. Should more than an hour elapse between each vote, the proceedings may be brought to a close, without further delay, by the chairman, or, in cities and towns, by the returning officer.

PAYMENT OF THE SCHOOL GRANTS.

The *Common School Apportionment* is payable annually at the Education Office to the authorized agent of the Municipal Treasurer of each County, City, Town, and Village, in the first week of July, provided the audited school accounts and the Superintendent's or Trustees' Reports have been duly received.

The *Separate School Grants* are paid to the authorized agent of the Trustees of each school in January and July, on receipt of the semi-annual returns.

The *Grammar School Grants* are paid to the authorized agents of the County Treasurers and City Chamberlains on receipt of the semi-annual returns in January and July.

Whenever delays occur in the payments, they do not take place in the Department, but are occasioned either by the non-receipt of the required reports, or by their being incorrect and therefore sent back for revision, or by the failure of Municipal Clerks to report to the Department as required by law the name and address of the Municipal Treasurers appointed by the Council ; or the delay is caused by the failure of Municipal Treasurers or Separate School Trustees, to appoint a Toronto agent to receive the apportionment. Forms for all reports and blank powers of attorney, are gratuitously distributed to the officers concerned, upon application to the Department.

REVISED LIST OF TEXT BOOKS.

(Authorized by the Council of Public Instruction for use in the Grammar Schools of Upper Canada.)

NOTE.—In the following list some books are *prescribed* under the authority of the fifteenth section of the Consolidated Grammar School Act, and others are *recommended*. The use of the books recommended is discretionary with the respective Boards of Trustees.

During the year 1867, the books already sanctioned by the Council may continue in use, as circumstances require, but on and after January 7th, 1868, the new list will be enforced.

I. LATIN.

TEXT BOOKS PRESCRIBED :

Harkness's New Series, viz. :

1. An Introductory Latin Book. By Albert Harkness, Ph.D.
2. A Latin Reader, intended as a Companion to the Author's Latin Grammar. By Albert Harkness, Ph.D.
3. A Latin Grammar for Schools and Colleges. By Albert Harkness, Ph.D.

If preferred, the following may be used instead of the above series :

Arnold's First and Second Latin Book and Practical Grammar, revised and corrected. By J. A. Spencer, D.D.

A Smaller Grammar of the Latin Language. By William Smith, LL.D.

LATIN DICTIONARY RECOMMENDED : (See note above.)

A Latin-English and English-Latin Dictionary. By Charles Anthon, LL.D.

or

The Young Scholar's Latin-English and English-Latin Dictionary. By Joseph Esmond Riddle, M.A.

II. GREEK.

TEXT BOOKS PRESCRIBED :

A First Greek Book, comprising an outline of Grammar and an Introductory Reader. By Albert Harkness, Ph.D.

A Smaller Grammar of the Greek Language, abridged from the larger Grammar of Dr. George Curtius.

GREEK LEXICON RECOMMENDED ; (See note above.)

Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon.

III. ANCIENT HISTORY, CLASSICAL GEOGRAPHY, AND ANTIQUITIES.

TEXT BOOKS PRESCRIBED :

A Manual of Ancient History. By Dr. Leonhard Schmitz.
 First Steps in Classical Geography. By Prof. James Pillans.

CLASSICAL DICTIONARIES, &c., RECOMMENDED : (See note.)

A Classical Dictionary of Biography, Mythology and Geography. By William Smith, LL.D.

A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities. By William Smith, LL.D.

or

A Classical Dictionary. By Charles Anthon, LL.D.

A Manual of Roman Antiquities. By Chas. Anthon, LL.D.

A Manual of Greek Antiquities. By Charles Anthon, LL.D.

The revised list in other departments will appear as soon as approved.

EDUCATION OFFICE, Toronto, December, 1866.

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