

were free scholars in the school. The custom of members of the Board acting as examiners, which had been followed up to this time, was departed from and never returned to afterwards. Rev. William Armstrong, Messrs. C. W. Weldon, W. P. Dole and Dr. Sinclair were the first persons chosen to act as examiners. Their report on the condition and progress of the school was very flattering, and it was ordered to be published.

In the following year the Whit-Monday and Whit-Tuesday holidays were cut off, and the first Saturday of each month made a school holiday. It would appear from this that school had previously been taught on Saturdays.

From 1859 to the present time the progress of the school has been most satisfactory. Events have transpired which, for the time, caused a cloud to rest upon the school, but the Board, when possible, remedied the defects, and as the years passed by the school made rapid and material progress. On January 5, 1860 the school had done so well that £100 bonus was divided between the three teachers. The only effect the civil war in the United States had on the school was that the boys were taught drill, Major T. W. Peters being their instructor, the Board having accepted on March 4, 1862, his offer to drill the boys and provide them with wooden rifles free of charge.

In 1863, the Board found it necessary, because of the increased expenses of the school, to reduce Dr. Patterson's salary to £200, he to provide a separate room for his pupils. Justice Parker, the following year, presented the Board with £50, the interest of which was to be annually expended in the purchase of a medal, which was to be called the Albert medal and was to be awarded as the Board should determine. This donation was made on December 5, 1864, and the Board decided to add \$12 annually to the interest, which was to be expended in the purchase of books to accompany the medal. The volunteer fire department having been disbanded a committee was appointed to report on the practicability of altering No. 5 engine house, a brick structure, which adjoined the school building, into a school house. It was found that this idea was not feasible and the question of a new building was recommenced and earnestly discussed during the following year. So strong was the feeling in favor of a new building in a more central location that on January 25, 1866, a committee was appointed to select a site. The citizens also took the matter up, and a public meeting was held of which Mr. Lauchlan Donaldson was the chairman, and a resolution favoring taxation on the citizens generally passed. The result of this meeting was reported to the Board on March 13, though they did not consider the resolution favorably, but decided, instead, on making extensive repairs on the old building which, it was estimated, would cost \$1,650. At a subsequent meeting, held on August 22, the matter was again discussed when it was decided to borrow \$2,000 for the purpose of improving the