

this Institution, have, I am well aware, wished to do justice to the work we have, during the last three years, *when the ground was quite unoccupied*, been trying to accomplish in our own Normal and Model Schools in Bonaventure street; and it would have been both unwise and injurious on our part to have continued any rivalry, still more any opposition, to this more fully organized establishment."

In order to show the estimation in which our school was held by those who were the best able to form an opinion, I shall, before attempting to answer the questions of the Parent Committee respecting the number of former students still engaged in the work of teaching, insert the following extracts, the one from the prospectus of the McGill Normal School, issued by the Superintendent of Education just before the opening of that Institution; the other from the Connecticut Common School Journal of the year 1856. In the prospectus above-mentioned, the Hon. Superintendent, speaking of the Professors of the Institution, says:—"Mr. Hicks, the other Professor, has studied in two of the best Normal Institutions in England, and has already gained a reputation in this country as the instructor of a number of efficient teachers."

The following extract is part of a very interesting account of the state of education in Canada, written by D. Camp, Esq., one of the Principals of the Normal School of the State of Connecticut:—

"The Model and Normal School of the Colonial Church and School Society at Montreal is also worthy of particular notice. This Institution is under the direction of a committee connected with the Episcopal Church, and is really a Church School. It has been remarkably successful in its operations, and is exerting an important and beneficial influence over other parts of Canada. The Head Master, Mr. William Hicks, from England, is devotedly engaged in his work. He is assisted by Mrs. Hicks, and a little band of co-workers, among whom we were pleased to meet Miss Stevens, a young lady from the 'States.' There are in the Normal department about twenty teachers in training, who receive daily lessons from Mr. Hicks, and teach in the Model Schools under his supervision. The school numbers 364, who are placed in small classes. Several of these classes recited at a time, in the same room, much like our Sunday School classes here. The lessons are mostly oral, given out by the Head Master, and his assistants, and illustrated by means of plates, cuts, objects of various kinds, apparatus, and maps. Books are used to some extent in the preparation of lessons, but much less than in our schools. The Bible is systematically studied, and religious instruction occupies a considerable portion of the time in the daily exercises. The spirit of harmony and love appeared to reign in all the departments, from the infant school to the highest class; and all, both teachers and pupils, seemed happy in their employment."

For three years the Society had successfully carried on its work of training; and, although this work was at last transferred to other hands, the influence of what had been done was telling strongly upon the educational advancement of the country.

The practicability of maintaining an Institution for preparing efficient teachers had been satisfactorily demonstrated.

The teachers already sent out had, by their skill in teaching, and knowledge of the duties of their profession, incontestibly shown the value of the trained over the untrained teacher.

As the result of what was done by those sent out to take charge of schools, young persons of both sexes were willingly coming forward to offer themselves for training.