

ficated teachers in these schools was 11,182, assisted by 10,677 pupil teachers and 1,253 assistant teachers. The cost of these schools Mr. Foster states as follows :—

By direct cost to Government,	£415,000
School fees from parents,.....	420,000
Subscription, past and present	470,000

£1,305,000

For this sum about a million of children are getting more or less of education in a population of about 22 millions.

Taking the Educational Report of Ontario for 1866, the latest at the moment at hand, we find that in a population of considerably less than two millions, we had 4,222 common schools in operation, attended by 372,320 pupils, at a cost to the country of \$1,387,233. In other words, while in England and Wales there were last year in Government schools, in whole or in part supported by grants from public funds, about one in every twenty-two of the population ; in Ontario, in 1866, and if 1868 were taken, the comparison would be still more favorable for us, one in every five. Cutting this down one-half to get to the average actual attendance, we have one in every ten actually in the Common Schools in Ontario, to one in twenty-two in England and Wales. And this takes no account of Grammar Schools with us, while a good number of the assisted schools in England are very much of the character of our Grammar Schools.

For the support of these schools in England, the average cost per head of the population is about the fourth part of a dollar ; with us nearly, if not quite, a dollar. In England and Wales there are 1,650,000 children of working people, between six and ten years of age, and of those only 670,000 are attending Government Schools. Between ten and twelve years of age, there are of the same class 755,000, and of these only 250,000 are at school. In the Militia regiments examined, less than one-third could read well, and less than one-sixth could write well. The Scotch regiments were better, but not much.

Altogether, while great progress has been made in providing primary education for the people of England, much still remains to be accomplished, and we trust that Mr. Foster, as he promises, will be able to bring in, next year, a thorough system of national education, in the carrying out of which all parties may be able to act in harmony. The difficulties in the way of such a consummation are formidable, but with the example of other countries, our own among the rest, before them, not to be regarded as impracticable.

In no spirit of boasting, but with a great amount of satisfaction, may the people of Ontario compare and contrast their educational efforts and successes with those of any part of the Mother Country. —*Globe*.

THE OLD BLUE SCHOOL OF YORK (U.C.)

(From Rev. Dr. Scadding's Paper of Collections and Recollections).

Immediately north of the Church-plot, and separated from it by an allowance for a street, was a large field, almost square, containing six acres. In a plan of the date 1819, and signed "T. Ridout, Surveyor-General," this piece of ground is entitled "College Square." In the same plan, the Church reservation is marked "Church Square," and the block to the west, "Square for Court House and Goal." The fact that the goal was to be erected there accounts for the name "Newgate Street," formerly borne by what is now Adelaide street. In early days, when the destined future was but faintly realized, "College Square" was probably expected to become in time, and to continue forever, an ornamental piece of ground round an educational institution. The situation, in the outskirts of York, would be deemed convenient and airy. For many years this six acre field was the playground of the District Grammar School. Through the middle of it, from north to south, passed a shallow "swale," where water collected after rains ; and where, in winter, small frozen ponds afforded not bad sliding-places. In this moist region, numerous crayfish were to be found in summer. Their whereabouts was always indicated by small clay chimneys of a circular form, built by the curious little nipping creatures themselves, over air holes for the admission of air. In different parts of this large area were remains of huge pine-stumps, underneath the long roots of which it was an amusement to dig and form cellars or imaginary treasure-vaults and powder magazines. About these relics of the forest still grew remains of the ordinary vegetation of such situations in the woods ; especially an abundance of the sorrel-plant, the "sapid, relishable taste of which will be remembered. In other places were wide depressions, showing where large trees had once stood. Here were no bad places, when the whim so was, to lie flat on the back and note the clouds in the blue vault overhead ; watch the swallows and house-martens when they came in spring, and listen to their quiet prattle with each other as they darted to and fro ; sights and sounds

still every year, at the proper season, to be seen and heard in the same neighbourhood, yielding to those who have an eye or ear for such matters a pleasure ever new ; sights and sounds to this day annually resulting from the cheery movements and voices of the direct descendants, doubtless, of the identical specimens that flitted hither and thither over the playground of yore. White Clover, with other herbage that commonly appears spontaneously in clearings, carpeted the whole of six acres, with the exception of the places worn bare, where favourable spots had been found for the different games then in vogue, amongst which, however, cricket was not as yet included. After falls of moist snow in winter, gigantic balls used here to be formed, gathering as they were rolled along, until by reason of their size and weight they could be urged forward no further ; and snow-castles on a large scale were labouriously built, destined to be defended or captured with immense displays of gallantry. Preparatory to such contests, piles of ammunition would be stored away within these structures. It was prohibited indeed in the articles to be observed in operations of attack and defence, to construct missiles of very wet snow ; to dip a missile in melted snow-water prior to use ; to subject a missile after a saturation of this kind, to the action of a night's frost ; to secrete within the substance of a missile any foreign matter ; yet, nevertheless, occasionally such acts were not refrained from, and wounds and bruises of an extra serious character, inflicted by hands that could not always be identified, caused loud and just complaints. Portions of the solid and extensive walls of these extemporized snow fortresses were often conspicuous in the playground long after a thaw had removed the wintry look from the rest of the scene. At the south-east corner of the six acres, about half an acre had been abstracted, as it were, and enclosed ; here had been built and put in operation what was called the York Central or National School. It was what we should term now a Common School, conducted on the "Bell and Lancaster" principle. Large numbers frequented it. Between the lads attending there, and the boys of the Grammar School, difficulties of course arose ; and on many occasions feats of arms, accompanied with considerable risk to life and limb, were performed on both sides with sticks and stones. Youngsters, ambitious of a character of extra daring, had thus an opportunity of distinguishing themselves in the eyes of their less demonstrative companions—the same would-be heroes had many stories to tell of the perils to which they were exposed on their way to and from school. Those of them who came from the western part of the town, had, according to their own showing, mortal enemies in the men of Ketchum's tannery, with whom it was necessary occasionally to have an encounter. While those who lived to the east of the school narrated, in response, the attacks experienced or delivered by themselves in passing Shaw's & Hugill's brewery. Across the road from the playground on the south side, eastward of the church plot, there was a row of dilapidated wooden buildings, inhabited for the most part by a thriftless and noisy set of people. This collection of houses was known in the school as "Irish town," and to "raise Irish town," meant to direct a snow ball or other light missile over the playground fence, in that direction. Such act was not unfrequently followed by an invasion of the field from the insulted quarter. Some wide chinks, established between the boards, in one place here, enabled anyone so inclined, to get over the fence readily. We once saw two men, who had quarreled in one of the buildings of Irish town, adjourn from over the road to the playground, accompanied by a few approving friends, and there, after stripping to the skin, have a regular fight with fists, and after some rounds, a number of men and women interfered and induced the combatants to return to the house from which they had issued forth for the settlement of their dispute. The building into which the usual denizens of the six acre playground were constrained during certain portions of each day to withdraw themselves, was situated at a point 114 feet from its western, and 104 feet from its southern boundary. It was a large frame structure, about 55 feet long and 40 wide, of two storeys, each of a respectable altitude. The gables faced east and west. On each side of the edifice were two rows of ordinary sash windows, five above and five below. At the west end were five windows and the entrance door. The whole exterior of the building was painted of a bluish hue, with the exceptions of the window and door frames, which were white. Within, on the first floor, after the lobby, was a large square apartment. About three yards from each of its angles, a plain timber prop or post helped to sustain the ceiling. At about four feet from the floor, each of these quasi-pillars began to be chamfered off at its four angles. Filling up the south-east corner of the room was a small platform approached on three sides by a couple of steps. This sustained a solitary desk about eight feet long, its lower part cased over in front with thin deal boards, so as to shut off from view the nether extremities of whosoever might be sitting at it. On the general level of the floor below, along the whole length of the southern and northern