

ten, fifty and one hundred merit cards. These cards are designed as far as possible not only to remove the objection to the principle of prizes itself, but also to enable the master of the school to obviate objections on the ground of alleged partiality and favoritism in the distribution of these prizes. The suggestions of the Department on the best mode of issuing these merit cards are as follows:—The one merit cards should be given daily or weekly, at the discretion of the teacher, to pupils who excel in punctuality, good conduct, diligence, or perfect recitation. Ten of the single merit cards entitle the holder to a ten merit card; five of the ten merit cards to a fifty merit card; and two of the fifty merit cards to a hundred merit card. If given daily, no pupil should be entitled to a certificate or prize at the quarterly examination who had not received at least fifty merits of all classes; if given weekly, from fifteen to twenty should be the minimum number of merits of all classes, which would entitle the holder to a certificate or prize at the end of the quarter. The value of the prize should in all cases be proportioned to the number or class of merit cards of all kinds received by the pupil during the quarter.

We have also appended to this article two communications from experienced teachers in our public schools on the subject of prizes, which will be read with much interest by teachers generally.

*The Rev. P. Goodfellow, Local Superintendent, Bosanquet,* says—The system of prizes is gaining ground, many of the schools having acted upon it during the past year, and with very apparent success. One noticeable measure for the encouragement of education in the township, inaugurated during the preceding year, I must not forget to mention—a measure which has much to recommend it, and from which, if continued, I hope for the best results. I allude to a general competition for prizes, open to all pupils from all the schools in the township. The sum of \$10 was granted for this purpose by our municipal council, which, with the 100 per cent. obtained at the Educational Department, made up \$20 worth of prize books, which were competed for immediately before the close of the year. A general holiday was announced in all the different schools, that not only pupils but teachers might have an opportunity of being present, of which a large number availed themselves. Though the accommodation was not sufficient, nor the arrangements as perfect as could be wished, yet a most lively interest was taken in the whole of the examination, and the result was such as to induce us to try again. The council has very generously granted us another sum—this time of \$20—for a similar competition next winter, and the effect will be, I have no doubt, to stimulate and encourage both teachers and pupils.

*Alexander Craig, Esq., Tilbury West.*—Prizes were given in two schools, each pupil receiving one, which has evidently a stimulating effect both on parents and pupils.

*John Eckford, Esq., Brant, Carrick, Culross, Greenock, Elderslie and Sauguen.*—Prizes are distributed with excellent effect. But whilst prizes properly so called are distributed to the best scholars and to those who have distinguished themselves by diligence, good conduct, and regular attendance, less valuable books are given to the others as rewards and encouragements, and they are excited to aspire after higher distinction at next distribution. All are thus cheered, and the joy and satisfaction are universal.

*Thomas S. Agar, Esq., North Riding, County of Hastings.*—I attribute in a great measure, the increase in the attendance this year to holding public township examinations, and the distribution of prizes. The Township Councils of Madoc, Huntingdon, and Rawdon, each contributed \$10 for prizes; as did also the Hon. B. Flint, for Elzevir, and A. L. Bogart, Esq., for Hungerford.

*Leonard Luton, Esq., East Riding, County of Elgin.*—In a few schools prizes are awarded regularly. Sometimes bad effects flow from the prize-giving system; but when judiciously managed, it gives increased vitality and energy to the whole school.

*The Rev. M. A. Farrar, Asphodel.*—Prizes have been distributed in only a few schools. I have not yet been able to decide what has been the effect of their distribution. A good deal depends on the discretion of the distributors themselves, and their mode of performing that duty; but I am disposed to think that if done with impartiality and judgment, prize-giving will be of great service to the interests of schools, for many reasons. The Hon. Billa Flint, in a letter addressed to me recently, proposes to give \$10 to each township in my superintendency (on condition that the sum of \$40 be secured from all sources), the amount to be distributed in the shape of prize books. He suggests that there should be a central meeting point for the schools of each township, and that the prizes should be distributed after a public competition. This is, it seems to me, an excellent idea; and not more excellent than generous in the donor. I have just learnt that Mr. Flint has extended his gift to all the townships in the Trent Division.

*William Watson, Esq., York.*—Prizes have been given in five of the Common and one of the Roman Catholic Separate Schools. I regret that we were unable to get up during the year a township

competition similar to that of 1863, feeling assured that the results thereof were plainly visible in the renewed impetus it gave to a laudable ambition to excel among the several schools of the township. The trustees, in some instances, remarked that their schools made more improvement in the four months preceding that examination than in the previous nine months.

*The Rev. R. Macarthur, Reach.*—Prizes have not been generally distributed among the pupils during the year, but where they have been distributed they appear to have had a stimulating effect on the recipients of them, and also on the school generally.

*The Rev. A. E. Miller, Wallace.*—In the schools where prizes are distributed, I think the children take more interest in their studies, and attend more regularly.

*Adam Hudspeth, Esq., Lindsay.*—During the year 1864 the trustees granted \$15 for prizes, which, with \$5 from the local superintendent, and the equivalent granted by government, purchased \$40 worth of books from the Department, which were distributed as prizes to the pupils of the Union Schools, one half at each half yearly examination, and exerted such a beneficial influence that it is to be hoped they will continue to grant yearly a certain sum for a like purpose.

*The Rev. Andrew A. Smith, Sarnia.*—The annual distribution of prizes has a very good effect, and is evidently beneficial in its results.

*Robert H. Dee, Esq., M.D., Onondaga.*—Prizes were distributed at one school, and they had the effect of making the pupils more diligent at school.

*The Rev. James T. Dowling, Uxbridge.*—Prize distribution stimulates to greater effort where adopted.

*William Harvey, Esq., Flos.*—Prizes were distributed in two of the schools last year, which, I would say, produced very beneficial results. In fact, in a pecuniary point of view, the money expended for prizes is well invested, as the premiums distributed at each examination tend greatly to cause the children to make the best use of their time at school.

*The Rev. William Belt, M.A., Scarborough.*—Prizes are usually distributed every year in one or more of the schools, and I think the general tendency is good. I prefer that, in some cases, something, however small, should be given by way of encouragement to every child in the school. It is possible still to mark the distinction between prizes for proficiency, rewards for diligence, and mere tokens of encouragement.

*The Rev. Thomas S. Chambers, Storrington.*—Prizes were made use of in some instances with beneficial effect in the way of improving the attendance, and exciting a commendable degree of emulation among the pupils. In one school section the trustees purchased books sufficient to supply each scholar with one. The best publications were selected as prizes for the most deserving. In this way all jealousy and unpleasant feeling were avoided. I am fully persuaded that money judiciously laid out in prizes would prove of invaluable service to the interests of education. I intend to give more prominence to this matter in my intercourse with teachers, trustees and parents.

*The Rev. John Porteous, Beverley.*—I think that the distribution of prizes meets with increasing favour, from which I would infer that the effect must be esteemed beneficial. I am decidedly in favour of giving prizes. The principal difficulty appears to be in the apportionment of them so that there may be no just accusations of partiality, and that the children themselves may understand the plan of marking merit, and see that it is perfectly carried out.

*The Rev. D. J. F. Macleod, M.A., Willoughby.*—Prizes were distributed in two sections, and the influence of the distribution was beneficial. There can be no greater, at any rate no more efficacious, incitement to proficiency in study, to punctuality and good conduct, than a liberal, and above all, an impartial distribution of prizes to pupils who are really deserving of them.

*Robert Menzies, Esq., Nassagaweya.*—We have had prizes distributed in only three of our schools, but from the good effect which I have witnessed from these, I shall endeavour to persuade the trustees and teachers to have them in all our schools.

*The Rev. James S. Douglas, M.A., Ashburnham.*—The prizes were well distributed, and gave, in consequence, general satisfaction.

*W. T. Boate, Esq., County of Durham.*—Eighteen schools are reported as having distributed prizes during the year. Only in one or two cases have they failed to prove a powerful stimulant to exertion on the part of the pupils, and these cases have been owing to an injudicious method of distribution. In most instances class lists have been kept, and the prizes distributed in accordance with the marks obtained by the pupils. It would be well if the trustees of every section would appropriate ten dollars annually for the purchase of books, &c., for distribution.

*C. Lee Ripley, Esq., Crosby South.*—In sections Nos. 5, 6, 9, and 16, prizes have been given with a good result.