

This was followed by singing by the pupils, after Principal Dawson distributed the prizes.

Mr. McGregor read the boys' list of names for prizes given below.

BOY'S DEPARTMENT—M'GILL MODEL SCHOOL.—JUNIOR DIVISION.

Reading: Cameron, Renwick, Archibald Stevenson; Spelling: Pearson, Rennick; Writing: A. Stephenson, Hoy; Drawing: Pearson, A. Stevenson, Hoy; Arithmetic: Horne, Rennick, Jones; Geography: Horne, A. Stevenson; Grammar: Horne, Rennick, Jones.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION.

Reading: Bryson, Geen; Spelling, Taylor, Garlic; Writing: Taylor, Hilton; Drawing: Taylor, Leslie, Hilton; Composition: Bryson; Arithmetic: Hilton, McGinn, Fleck; Geography: McGinn, Goodbody, Garlic; Grammar: Taylor, Fleck, Garlic; Etymology: Taylor, Bryson Geen.

SENIOR DIVISION.

Reading: Lowden, Hutchins, C. Sims; Spelling: Phillips, J. Gardner, Moore; Writing: Taylor, W. Coristine, Moore; Drawing: W. Coristine, Kershaw, C. Coristine; French: Phillips, McBride; Composition: Goold, C. Sims; Algebra: Savage, Lowden; Arithmetic: Esplin, Goold, McBride, Moore; Geography: Esplin, Savage, McGinn, Kershaw; Grammar: Esplin, J. Gardner; Etymology: Esplin, J. Gardner, C. Coristine; Canadian History: Esplin, Watson, McGinn; English History: Esplin, Watson, W. Coristine, C. Sims; General paper: Savage; Punctuality and Regularity: Savage, McBride, Taylor, Lowden.

The Rev. Mr. Muir delivered a very interesting address to the boys and girls separately, in which he exhorted the former to exercise "push" and "pluck," and be governed by principle in order to become true men; and instructed the latter that true beauty consisted in living to please others, rather than oneself, and that for this purpose they should cultivate "taste, tact, and temper."

A farewell essay was then read by Miss Sutherland, in which she touched with feeling the approaching departure of the Principal teacher, Miss McCracken.

Prof. Dawson then closed the exercises, by announcing the coming term. He expressed regret that Miss McCracken, the principal teacher in the Girls' Department was about to sever her connexion with the school, in which, he said, she had rendered such valuable services.

Report on the Inspection of Schools in Lower Canada.

(Translated and printed by order of the Legislative Assembly.)

Education Office,
Montreal, 2nd January, 1863. }

Honorable T. D. McGEE,
President of the Executive Council, and
Acting Provincial Secretary.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 17th November last, in which you require of me, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, a Report on the following questions respecting the inspection of schools in Lower Canada:—

- 1st. On the system of inspection at present followed, and its efficacy in relation to the wants and requirements of our society;
- 2nd. On the possibility of reducing the number of Inspection Districts, and the cost and efficacy of such a system as compared with the present system;
- 3rd. On the question of the possibility and desirability of relieving the Department of Public Instruction of the trouble and expense of the inspection of schools, in whole or in part, by leaving it to the municipal authorities, as is the practice in Upper Canada.

I.

The important subject included in the foregoing questions has already, on several occasions, attracted my attention, and I think that I cannot do better than quote here a passage from my Report for 1857, in which it is considered at some length:—

"The inspection of the schools falls short of what is desirable to be done, and it is generally thought that the inspectors are negligent in the performance of their duty. Hasty visits, unattended

by the School Commissioners, statistics imperfectly collected, reports written in some cases by hearsay, many municipalities neglected and unvisited for several years, form a state of things which was represented to me with reference to the functionaries in question, as really prevailing when I entered on my office. Unfortunately I became convinced that the picture, though unfair to many, and overcharged with respect to most of the inspectors, was not devoid of truth in its general coloring. I exerted myself to remedy the evil, as far as lay in my power, and the dismissal of two proved that the Government were earnest in their determination, that those persons who had voluntarily assumed the important task, should acquit themselves of it in a suitable manner. Unfortunately also, certain circumstances render the superintendence which I endeavoured to exercise over these officers very difficult. It is evident that while parties confine themselves to general complaints against the Inspectors, without specifying particular derelictions of duty in any, it will always be difficult for the department to find out, and to punish their neglect. Now, the very persons who go so far as to demand the abolition of the office, are often the last to specify to the authorities the misconduct and irregular proceedings of the officers impeached, while they seek to deprive the country of an institution which is absolutely necessary, to ensure the working of any system of public instruction. No doubt a noble feeling deters many honorable citizens from any act which might seem to belong to the trade of the informer, but it seems to me that the civil courage shewn in simply denouncing the culpable neglect of a public officer, in whose hands are the destinies of the youth of our country, should not be repugnant to the most delicate mind.

"However this may be, the great extent of the districts of inspection, as I observed in my first report, by rendering the frequent and proper inspection of the schools impracticable, affords an excellent excuse for the Inspectors, of which they avail themselves when they are accused. It is very difficult for the Department to ascertain whether they do all that is possible to be done when it is clearly known that they cannot perfectly fulfil all the duties incumbent on them. The majority have from one hundred to two hundred schools to visit twice a year, and to travel over districts comprising on an average between 400,000 and 500,000 acres of settled country; some of the districts contain as much as 800,000 acres of inhabited land, and extend over nearly 200 superficial leagues. It is certain that were it not for the hospitality afforded gratuitously to the Inspectors by the friends of education in some localities, their salaries, averaging £200, and never exceeding £250, would be almost entirely absorbed by their travelling expenses. The consequence of this is, that the office can be generally accepted only by persons exercising other professions, and who make a secondary affair of that which ought to be their only and exclusive occupation.

"Are we to conclude from the preceding remarks that the office of Inspector ought to be abolished, thus effecting a reduction of £4000 in the expenses of the Department? In the first place I doubt much whether this reduction of the expenditure would be a *saving*. It is to the action of the Inspectors, however imperfect, that we are indebted for the remarkable increase which has every year taken place in the assessments; and by glancing over the reports of my predecessor, it will readily be seen that that increase became considerable, dating only from the same period as the establishment of the office of Inspector. There is great reason to fear that the suppression of the inspection of schools, account books and Commissioner's records, would have the immediate effect of diminishing, to a considerable extent, the amount of the assessments and contributions. Without going further we may state as certain that the Inspectors have detected, stopped or prevented defalcations of the Secretary-Treasurers to an amount in the aggregate, far exceeding their salaries.

"When we have admitted that the inspection of schools is necessary, it seems to me that in Lower Canada at least, it would be difficult to carry it into effect otherwise than by officers appointed and paid by the Government. In France, in Belgium, in Prussia, in England and in Ireland, they have Inspectors ap-