

teachers are good, averaging £250 per annum. The Teachers' Association have under consideration a project for raising a permanent fund for aged and infirm teachers.

NEW ZEALAND.—In the province of Nelson, New Zealand, every householder, rich or poor, pays a tax of £1 towards the government free schools, and 5s. per head for each child who does not go to some school. An inspector is appointed, who reports periodically to a board of management on the progress and attendance of the pupils; thus, the system is persuasive rather than compulsory, and answers very well. The education is secular, with certain times set apart for religious instruction, which the pupils can avail themselves of, or not, at the discretion of the parents.

MADAGASCAR.—The christian population numbers about seventeen thousand, and sustains twenty schools, with twenty-nine teachers, and an attendance of 936 pupils: more than one-half of these are in the capital.

AT HOME.

We learn that J. B. Norton, Esq., has been engaged by the School Commissioners of Halifax to train the children of the schools of the city in the art of music. Knowing of the success of Prof. Norton during the past year in the practice of his profession, we congratulate the commissioners on having obtained the services of so efficient a teacher. There is no reason why every child should not be taught to sing as well as to read, and we are glad to see that this branch of youthful instruction is beginning to receive that attention which it demands.—*Acadian Recorder*.

In Lower Canada a most substantial school-house recently erected, covers the site of the old one. Here in two school-rooms were assembled the rising generation of that thriving district, and a more cheerfully obedient and orderly class of children, it was never our lot to look upon. To them the acquirement of knowledge seemed a pleasure, and not a task, and we thought as we looked upon their bright beaming faces, ruddy with health and happiness, that it would be regarded by them as a calamity should anything prevent their attendance at school; and when we looked upon the well finished and ventilated school-room, with "a place for everything, and everything in its place," and then at the kindly, yet firm bearing of the teachers, we sighed not for the "good old times," but wished that our boyhood's days had been spent among such scenes as these.

We believe this school, which is under the tuition of Mr. Amasa Fisk and Miss Kelly, bids fair to become one of the first schools in the Province.—*Wolfeville Advertiser*.

YARMOUTH SEMINARY.—The public terminal examinations of the Yarmouth Seminary were held on Thursday and Friday, 20th and 21st ult. Notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather there was a fair attendance of visitors, all of whom seemed to take a deep interest in the proceedings. Classes were examined in Greek, Latin, French, German, Statics and Dynamics, Logic, Ethics, History and Zoology, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geography, and Natural Philosophy. The answering of the students in the several departments was very satisfactory, evincing a thorough training in the subjects of examination. The universal aim, from the lowest of the primary departments to the collegiate, seems to be the development of mind. The nature of the questions proposed, and the character of the answers given, clearly showed that the pupils were taught to think. The teachers seem to comprehend the true end of education, and to strive earnestly to attain that end by a judicious and thorough course of instruction. The undoubted progress made by the pupils of the English departments, seems to have been fully equalled by that of the students of the collegiate department, and female High School. Several gentlemen, competent to form an opinion on the subject, have spoken in high terms of the proficiency of the classes in Greek, Latin, French, German, &c. We may remark that the institution is now in a better position than ever, experienced and successful teachers having been secured for all the various departments. It embraces Primary, Intermediate, Grammar School and High School (or Collegiate) Departments. And thus pupils, beginning with the alphabet, may advance to the completion of a college course. In addition to all the higher English branches, and mathematics, classics, &c., French, German, and Italian form part of the course, and classes in Spanish are formed when required. Taking in connection with the Seminary, the excellent school lately established in the lower part of the town, and the Milton school, which has now been in operation about a year, we think the educational advantages of Yarmouth are second to none in the Lower Provinces; and, owing to the large staff of teachers employed, and a judicious division of labor, these advantages may be shared by the Province in general. The Examination on Friday evening passed off very creditably. The large hall of the Seminary was well filled, and the audience seemed delighted with the exercises, which consisted of original essays, vocal and instrumental music, dramatic recitations in English and French, &c. It has been pronounced the most successful that has yet been held.—*Yarmouth Herald*.

WELL-MERITED.—J. R. Willis, Esq., Secretary to the Board of School Commissioners of this city, has been elected an honorary member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, as a mark of their appreciation of his services rendered to the Conchology of this portion of British America.—*Christian Messenger*.

WINDSOR, HANTS. CO.—A few days ago a public examination was held in the Town Hall, when the scholars, to the number of about 300, acquitted themselves well. On the evening of the same day the public assembled to witness a Rhetorical Exhibition, in which some 50 or 60 of the pupils took part. It was a great success. The auditory, which was probably the largest that ever entered the Hall, was thrilled with delight on seeing the different exercises performed with such perfect naturalness and effect.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, JULY 7TH, 1866.—"Provision being made by the School Law for the publication of a *Journal of Education*, the Council of Public Instruction directs that the said *Journal* be made the medium of official notices in connexion with the Educational Department."

T. H. RAND,

Sec'y to C. P. I.

I. To Trustees of Public Schools.

1. "A relation being established between the trustees and the teacher, it becomes the duty of the former, on behalf of the people, to see that the scholars are making sure progress, that there is life in the school both intellectual and moral,—in short, that the great ends sought by the education of the young are being realized in the section over which they preside. All may not be able to form a nice judgment upon its intellectual aspect, but none can fail to estimate correctly its social and moral tone. While the law does not sanction the teaching in our public schools of the peculiar views which characterize the different denominations of Christians, it does instruct the teacher "to inculcate by precept and example a respect for religion and the principles of Christian morality." To the trustees the people must look to see their desires in this respect, so far as is consonant with the spirit of the law, carried into effect by the teacher."—*Comments and Regulations of Council of Public Instruction, p. 51, reg. 5.*

2. Whereas it has been represented to the Council of Public Instruction that Trustees of Public Schools have, in certain cases, required pupils, on pain of forfeiting school privileges, to be present during devotional exercises not approved of by their parents; and whereas such proceeding is contrary to the principles of the School Law, the following additional Regulation is made for the direction of Trustees, the better to ensure the carrying out of the spirit of the Law in this behalf:—

QUERIED, That in cases where the parents or guardians of children in actual attendance on any public school (or department) signify in writing to the Trustees their conscientious objection to any portion of such devotional exercises as may be conducted therein under the sanction of the Trustees, such devotional exercises shall either be so modified as not to offend the religious feelings of those so objecting, or shall be held immediately before the time fixed for the opening or after the time fixed for the close of the daily work of the school, and no children, whose parents or guardians signify conscientious objections thereto, shall be required to be present during such devotional exercises.

3. "The hours of teaching shall not exceed six each day, exclusive of the hour allowed at noon for recreation. Trustees, however, may determine upon a less number of hours. A short recess should be allowed about the middle of both the morning and afternoon session. In elementary departments, especially, Trustees should exercise special care that the children are not confined in the school room too long."—*Comments and Regulations of Council of Public Instruction, p. 43, reg. 2.*

II. To Inspectors.

1. A supply of School Returns has been forwarded to each Inspector. In the case of "BOROUGH SECTIONS" forming parts of different sectional districts, the Inspector in whose county the school-house is situate, will inspect the school in any such section. He will furnish the Trustees with a blank "C" Return for each Board of Commissioners with which the section is connected; and upon the back of each return signify when and where each is to be lodged by the Trustees. Each Inspector will, before the close of the Term, transmit to his fellow Inspector a duplicate sheet of the "NOTES OF INSPECTION" of each Border School.

2. The attention of Inspectors of Schools is especially called to the STANDARD ORDER contained in Circular No. 9, par. 7. A strict compliance with said order is required.

3. The Council of Public Instruction, under the authority of the 12th sub-division of the 6th section of the Law concerning Public Schools, has made the following order:—

"In cases where sections failed to determine, in annual meeting, which member of the existing Board of Trustees should retire from office, and to fill the annual vacancy in the Trusteeship, it shall be the duty of the Inspector to determine which Trustee shall retire; and the Commissioners shall fill such vacancy in the manner directed by law."

October 31, 1866.

III. To Trustees and Teachers.

Engagements hereafter entered into between Trustees and Teachers will not be regarded as legal, if the amount of the Teacher's salary is made contingent on the sum to be received by the Section from the county fund. See *Jour. of Education, p. 21.*

January, 1867.

IV. Prescribed Text-Books.

The Council of Public Instruction has prescribed Bain's *Rhetoric* in place of Whately's *Rhetoric*. Dr. Collier's *Historics of Greece and Rome* have also been added to the list of prescribed text-books, for use in advanced Common Schools.

V. Superior Schools.

Those interested are notified that, in accordance with the Revised Regulations of the Council of Public Instruction, one-half of the grant to Superior Schools will be paid by the Superintendent of Education to the Trustees, to be applied by them in improving the apparatus of the school, or for general school purposes; and one-half to the Teacher of the school for his own use.

The conditions on which sections will be allowed to compete for this grant may be found on page 35 of the "Comments and Reg. of the Council of Public Instruction." A careful compliance with all the requirements relating to the school house, furniture, apparatus, out-houses, &c., as well as those relating to the skill and thoroughness exhibited by the Teacher in his work, will hereafter be required of each section receiving the grant.