

Rev. James Porter, local superintendent, for the kindness kindly rendered by him in their work.

All-which is respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR WICKSON, LL.D., } *Examiners.*
JOHN M. KING, M.A., }

Toronto, July 29, 1867.

The Chairman then stated that the Rev. Dr. Ryerson would address the meeting, and he hoped that the gentlemen who might address the meeting would make their speeches as brief as possible, as he had no doubt that the children were anxious to have the prizes presented to them.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson then came forward amid applause, and delivered a short address in which he referred in pleasing terms to the beneficial results of the establishment of scholarships in the Toronto grammar school for the benefit of the pupils attending the public schools. He said he was glad to see that the citizens took such a deep interest in the success of education in this city, and he trusted that this good work would advance more and more from year to year. He then referred to the report of the English commissioner who had been sent out some time ago to this country and the United States to report upon the state of education. That gentleman had visited not only the model schools but also the city schools and he had stated in his report upon his return to England, that he had enquired into the state of education in the United States and Canada, and he was enabled to say that the teaching in the States was more showy, but that in Canada it was more solid. (Applause.) Now, this he attributed to the mode of raising revenue for the support of the schools. In the States legislative grants were made for that purpose, whilst in Canada each municipality was taxed for the maintenance of the schools, and consequently a warm, local interest was created in their favour.

Rev. Wm. Stephenson was next introduced. He too referred briefly to the interest he felt in the city schools and spoke in complimentary terms of their high moral and intellectual character. He believed that the course which was being pursued in granting scholarships, prizes and certificates, was the very best method that could be pursued because it acted as a stimulus to exertion on the part of the pupils. He hoped that the city schools would go on from one degree of excellence to another in extending their beneficial influence throughout this country.

The Chairman at this stage of the proceedings read a letter of apology from the Rev. Mr. Topp, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Rev. Dr. Jennings then came forward, and, after expressing the pleasure he experienced upon being present, stated that if there was any thing of which the people of Canada had reason to boast, it was the common schools of Ontario; and he gave the credit of the establishment of these noble schools to the chief superintendent of education, Rev. Dr. Ryerson, who had stood by them through evil and good report. He referred, in complimentary terms, to the efforts made by the late lamented Mr. J. G. Bowes, and Mr. Justice Adam Wilson, in establishing scholarships in the grammar schools, for the benefit of deserving pupils belonging to the city schools, by getting the corporation to give a grant to the grammar school, for that purpose.

Rev. Mr. Manly was next introduced, and spoke in complimentary terms of the state of education in this country, in Scotland, in the United States, and elsewhere.

Dr. A. A. Riddell, an ex-trustee, then advanced, and delivered an interesting address, in which he referred to the state of the schools in 1850, and the efforts of Dr. Ryerson, Dr. Workman, himself, and others, to establish the present noble system of public instruction. He contended that the common school system had worked well in every country in which it had been introduced; and stated that some six years ago he was present at the opening of the first common school in a city two hundred years old, in a foreign country (Mexico), when it was stated that the building was too large; that children would never be found to fill it; but, he was glad to say, that the school had not been opened long, before it was found necessary to enlarge the building, and, although the population of that city had been greatly decreased within the past six years, by the ravages of war, it now contained three large common schools. He regretted very much that, whilst many rich men in Toronto had subscribed large sums for the benefit of churches, that very few indeed had ever given anything for the benefit of education; and, indeed, he could not remember a single instance of a donation having been given in aid

of the city schools. He hoped that there would be an improvement in this respect, as he believed that the city schools were deserving of the most liberal patronage at the hands of those who were able to encourage them. The doctor resumed his seat amid warm applause.

The Chairman reminded Dr. Riddell that Mr. Jesse Ketchum, formerly of Toronto, but now in Buffalo, had always been a liberal patron of the city schools; and then stated, that, although the merchants of Toronto derived no benefit from the common schools, that they were heavily taxed for their support.

Rev. Mr. King followed in a few remarks in which he paid a tribute of respect to the memory of the late lamented Daniel Ryrie, whom he contended, was an ornament to the common schools, and he doubted not that if that young man's life had been spared that he would have left his mark upon the history of this country. He was glad to observe, however, that a younger brother of the deceased young man had taken a scholarship upon the present occasion. (Applause.)

The successful competitors were then called upon the platform by the Rev. Mr. Porter, and were presented with the scholarships, &c., by the chairman amid warm marks of approbation on the part of their companions.

This interesting part of the evening's proceedings having been brought to a close, the Rev. Mr. Gregg pronounced the benediction and the meeting separated.—*Leader.*

—ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The eleventh annual convention of this association met at the Temperance Hall on the 6th inst. About one hundred members were present. W. McCabe, Esq., LL.B., Principal of the Union School, Oshawa, 1st Vice-President, was called to the chair, in the absence of the Rev. Dr. Ormiston, the President. The Chairman addressed the convention on the topics referred to in the Programme, and particularly on Object Teaching and the Higher Education of Girls. The topic, "What is the best method of teaching reading and spelling," was first discussed. The report of a committee on Primary Instruction, recommending a wider extension of the system of Object Teaching and other improved methods, was discussed and adopted. On the 8th, the Rev. J. Porter, Local Superintendent of schools, Toronto, ably addressed the association on *Child Neglect*. Mr. Porter showed what had been done by the Manchester Education Aid Society towards improving the condition of neglected children, and affording them school facilities, and brought forward many strong authorities in favour of some measure of compulsion, although the work of the christian philanthropist would be needed to make any such law really effective. In the afternoon of the same day, Mr. Kirkland, Head Master of the Whitby Union school, read an interesting paper on the topic,—"Should girls be recognized as pupils in our Grammar Schools." Mr. Kirkland is an advocate of the mixed system, and cited the opinions of certain writers in support of his views; the necessity of a classical education for girls was also insisted on. A resolution was adopted affirming the desirability of the attendance of girls at the grammar schools, in view of the importance of "the mental and moral culture and refinement of the females" of the country. A resolution was also passed expressing the regret of the association at the manner in which the grant to grammar schools has been distributed. [It is right to state here that those persons who have applied for explanations on this point to the Education Office have generally perceived and acknowledged the inconvenience and embarrassment which would have been occasioned to the schools generally by adopting any other system of apportionment for the current year.] A committee was then appointed to press the subject of the education of girls upon the authorities. In the evening, the Teachers' annual conversation took place in the departmental building, Gould street, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, the Rev. Wm. Stephenson, the Rev. Dr. Barclay, and W. McCabe, Esq., acting president, occupied seats on the platform. The Chief Superintendent "delivered an interesting address upon education, dwelling with much energy upon those points suggested by the changes and improvements that would probably take place in consequence of the confederation of the Provinces. He also compared the American and Canadian systems of education, expressing himself (as might naturally be expected) strongly in favour of the latter. He referred particularly to the prospect of having the system of provincial certificates adopted throughout the province. His remarks were warmly applauded." The programme comprised a selection of vocal and instrumental music, with readings; the galleries of paintings and statuary were also thrown open. On the 8th, a resolution of regret at the decease of T. J. Robertson, Esq.,