

PARK SCHOOL

The Bureau was fortunate enough to obtain from Principal Richardson a school diary, or "log," which had been kept carefully from January 3rd, 1871, to January 31st, 1877. After that date the entries are fairly numerous for a few years and finally cease on the 20th of May, 1885. The daily attendance was entered each month up to January 12th, 1877. Differences of opinion and difficulties bulking large at the time now assume a different perspective, from which, perhaps, we may all draw a lesson.

During all of the early years, classes in religious instruction were conducted by the Rev. S. J. Boddy, and later by the Rev. Mr. Ballard. An interesting entry in the log is the following: "Rev. Mr. Kelly, Priest, visited and examined the several divisions of the school in reading, grammar and arithmetic."

As at present, problems of attendance and conduct had to be faced by teachers in those days. Such entries as the following carry the mind back to old school days:

"March 10th, 1873—This morning two boys in the senior division, for misbehaving, were told to go home, and each replied that he would not go." (Later suspended).

"Nov. 5th, 1873—Sent ——— home at 11.20 a.m. for the day. Cause—throwing things at other pupils during study. Repeatedly warned not to do so. Notified his father."

"March 28th, 1876—Sent ——— home until he replaced a pane of glass broken by him."

Sunday School picnics were as disturbing to school attendance in those days as at present, as the following entry testifies:

"Monday, 29th June, 1871—Several boys were absent to-day on account of attending a Sunday School picnic."

The circus and the delights of summer had the same attractions for the boys then as now. The entry for June 21st, 1875, reads as follows: "Barnum's show being in the city accounts for the thin attendance this day." On September 7th, 1875, we find the entry: "——— suspended; leaving school without permission," and on September 23rd of the same year, we are told that "Conductor ——— brought ——— to school; found him wandering down at Scarboro. He ran away from home but he had a school bag by which he was recognized as a pupil of Park School."

The Principal of the day made the following entry on Tuesday, May 9th, 1871: "Several boys were absent yesterday afternoon on account of attending a funeral." Other entries of a similar nature occur.