

Educational Intelligence.

CANADA.

Items.—The contracts for the erection of the buildings for the new Normal and Model Schools and Educational Department of Upper Canada, and also for "Trinity College, Church University," have just been given out. Ground on both sites has been "broken," and the buildings will proceed rapidly to completion.—A meeting, "one of the most important," says the *Watchman*, "that was ever held in Port Hope, regarding education," was recently held in that town for the purpose of rendering the system in operation more effective. Several resolutions were passed: one advocating the "establishment of *one school*, having departments properly classified, and teachers sufficient to furnish education for all the children in the town."—An active teachers' institute has been established in one of the school circuits of the county of Essex; the Rev. F. Mack, director. [See vol. iii, *J. of Ed.*, p. 53].—A meeting has been held in Perth, for the purpose of taking steps to unite the Common Schools with the Grammar School of that town.—A correspondent of the *Hamilton Spectator* remarks that in the counties of Huron and Perth, the subject of education receives much attention from the new settlers.—The persons arrested as being the ringleaders of the school riots at Three Rivers, have been tried and found guilty.—The *Examiner* says, that several of the law students in Toronto have abandoned the profession, and betaken themselves to mercantile pursuits.—The Dumfries Teachers' Association, at a recent meeting, says a local paper, "agreed to petition the municipal councils of Dumfries, Paris, and Galt, for money to purchase prizes, to be awarded at a public examination of all the schools, at some central place, to the best scholars attending any school within these and the adjoining municipalities. This would be the beginning of a great educational world's fair in this quarter, and the idea deserves especial favour."—The following "notice" has just been issued: Arrangements having now been made to open "Trinity College—Church University"—for the business of instruction, on the first of October next; information is hereby given, to all whom it may concern, that Grammar Schools in any part of Upper Canada, will be received into union with the College, upon application to the Council." (The conditions are omitted).—At a recent meeting of the Teachers' Institute, county of Welland, the President delivered an "appropriate address, advocating the propriety of such an association, explaining the principles upon which it is to be conducted; and likewise beautifully portraying the great benefit it will prove both to the instructor and pupil."—An effort is being made to erect a new and superior grammar school-house at Picton.

Progress of Education in the township of Walsingham.—An intelligent trustee writes as follows to the *Long Point Advocate*:—At the commencement of last year, the number of sections was eleven. During the present year *five* new sections have been formed in portions of the township where no public means of instruction previously existed. The teachers now employed are well qualified; only one of the third class, three of the first, the rest second class teachers. The schools are now well organized: the average salary paid to male teachers is £5 10s. per month. In eight of the schools now in operation, all of the common branches are thoroughly taught. Geometry is taught in two, and algebra in four, together with other branches; and many lads and young men, as well as girls and young ladies, are distinguishing themselves in the above branches. It is highly gratifying to observe the interest felt at present in the education of the youth of our township; and our worthy local superintendent, who has proved himself to be a warm friend of education, announced the intention of holding a school convention in March, when the scholars of all the schools, together with the teachers, trustees, and other friends of education, will be respectfully solicited to attend. The several schools will undergo an examination, and scholars will be allowed to compete with each other for prizes. The scholars for competition will be classified according to their ages. The prizes will extend to first, second and third best in each branch, and will consist of well selected books, the means to obtain which are being raised by subscription.

Permanent School Fund.—Mr. Sheriff Conger, of Peterboro', has lately propounded a scheme for the disposal of the public lands. He says, "The plan I have to suggest, is—that the Government should dispose of all waste, or unsold lauds of the Crown, to the several County Councils, where such lands may lie, at a nominal price of say 6d. or 1s. per acre: payment for the same to be made by the Councils in debentures bearing interest, and redeemable in 30 years. The fund so created to be applied towards the establishment of a permanent "Common School" fund. The conditions of the sale to the Counties to be—that these lauds shall be by them re-sold, at a low price, varying from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per acre, according to value,—and on time if the purchasers require it, to actual settlers

only. The entire proceeds of such sales, after providing for the payment of the interest upon the purchase, and any incidental expenses to be anticipated by debentures, and laid out in making roads thereto. The advantages of the scheme are, I conceive:—1st. The making of good roads throughout the most remote parts of your several counties. 2ndly. The immediate and consequent settlement of the same, and—3rdly. The creation of a permanent common school fund; three items of vital importance to the people of this Province, and if attainable, as I contend they are, and that too, without creating one shilling of additional tax, would be productive of incalculable good. Without roads and suitable means of communication, no country can very speedily be settled; and without schools, no people are likely to become intelligent, great or prosperous.

The Horrors of a Free Education.—It is astonishing how some men hold out against the certain advance of the age in every kind of improvement. The *Hamilton (Canada) Spectator* has met with the rarest specimen of this class of obstinate holdfasts that we have yet heard of. He claims to be "a Westminister farmer;" is mortally—we fear—grieved with that indefatigable promoter of free education in the Canadas, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, and thus depicts the horrible results of free education upon the children of poor men:—"Educating their childer is a reddey way to increase drunkenness and idleness, they will turn about and say, o we are master of you we make you pay for our childer and we Can Crowse about," a proceeding, which, he says, is "Robbing peter to pay poal is an in Justice and is Built upon a sandy foundation it Cannot stand, and if it is permitted to go on and it Comes to a faal great will be the faal of it."—He concludes a somewhat long communication by requesting the editor "to insert it in a Conspicuous place in his wide serQulated paper."—When that man dies, his friends should open a negotiation with Barnum, for the sale of his literary effects.—[*New York Commercial Advertiser*.]

The Diffusion of General Knowledge.—A correspondent of the *Norfolk Messenger* remarks:—"Again, if we look at education, an interesting subject presents itself to the mind. What exertions are now made for the cause of education, and indeed there should be: for the next generation will require additional learning than that with which we are blessed with at present. Some complain of the expense of education, and rather than spend a few dollars in educating their children, they will spend it in dress, in luxury, and in vice. We should consider that 'tis education that forms the common mind,' and let us rather sacrifice needless self-indulgence than neglect the education of our children. The time is not far distant when the mechanic, the farmer, and the labourer will have an education, and when the lawyer and all the various professions will not be able to impose the mysteries of technicality to such a lamentable extent. Law will be plain and easy to be understood, medicine will lose its bewildering, heart-aching, mysterious, high-sounding, and unnecessary names, and when purity, love, fidelity, and industry, will be esteemed and practiced by all classes in society."

Commission of Inquiry, Toronto University.—The following "circular" has been issued by the Commission of Visitation of the Toronto University:—"Sir,—Her Majesty's Commissioners for the University of Toronto, being charged with the duty of reporting upon the various subjects specified in an Act passed in the twelfth year of Her Majesty's reign, chap. 82, are desirous of availing themselves of the information of those, whose experience and position, as well as acquaintance with the wants and wishes of the people of the Province generally, entitle their opinion to public confidence. Although the Commissioners are anxious to have the benefit of your advice, communicated in such a manner as may seem to yourself best calculated to do justice to your views, they will feel particularly obliged by being favoured with your opinion on the following points, which have already engaged their anxious attention:—1. The expediency of reducing the amount of fee at present charged. 2. The expediency of limiting the compulsory attendance of students upon the university lectures to two terms in each year, instead of being extended, as at present, to three terms. In this way, compulsory residence at the seat of university would be reduced to six months (say from November to May) in each year, while the attention of the absent, to the subjects of the third term, might be secured by requiring them to undergo an examination? 3. Whether, under the present system, or in the event of your concurring in the changes suggested in the last query, the course for the degree of B.A. should be extended to four years, or should be limited, as at present, to three years? 4. The expediency of re-arranging the course of instruction at present pursued; of altering the principles upon which degrees are conferred, and rendering them real tests of merit: of so regulating the studies of the university, as to render them at some period of the course, more directly subservient to the future pursuits of the students? 5. The best means of rendering the scholarships, authorized by the above Act, available for the purposes contemplated; the regulations which you would suggest as to the mode of election; the period during which they should be