

of the intellect but, what is far more important, of the character of our children.

The number of schools was 5,123—increase, 133; number of teachers, 6,596—increase, 123. Of these, 3,153 were males—

increase, 93; and 3,443 females—increase,

30. Dividing the number of teachers into the number that denotes the average attendance, we get an average for the Province of a little over 33 pupils to each teacher. The counties have a little over 30 to each teacher, the towns 44, and the cities 45.

(*To be continued.*)

SPRING.

[NOTE.—Some time since my friend, Dr. Kelly, Inspector of Public Schools for Brant County, set "Spring" as a subject for English composition in one of the schools in his division, and finding the productions of the pupils rather trite, subsequently read the following stanzas to them as exhibiting a more free treatment of the subject. I have thought them worthy of a wider circulation.—J. E. HONGSON.]

I.

O tropic-born, in emerald vesture clad,
Fair daughter of the far off sunny isles!
Our mother, Nature, welcomes thee with smiles,
And even the gay blue heavens themselves look glad.

II.

At thy approach hoar winter flies apace,
And with a sigh resigns his chilling sway,
Speeding to polar haunts his cheerless way,
Fearing thy elfin pranks and sunny face.

III.

The embattled forest, erewhile shorn and bare,
Now gay with banners flouts the hostile breeze,
And 'mid the leafy coverts melodies
Of myriad songsters thrill the ravished air.

IV.

The streams that now rejoicing to be free,
Late mute, enchained, in icy fetters bound,
Stern winter's captives, with exulting sound,
Their shackles reft, leap laughing to the sea.

V.

Along the verdant meads the lambkins play,
Skipping from mound to mound in sportive glee;
Full-uddered kine explore the upland lea,
The flow'rets sweet and tender grass their prey.

VI.

O birth of nature, sweetest season, hail!
From thee this useful lesson let us draw,
(A time-worn maxim taught of Nature's law,
Youth is the time for action, age is frail.)

BRANTFORD.

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