

## IV. Matters of Local Administration.

### 1. SCHOOL INSPECTION.

PARRY SOUND, Sept. 11, 1876.

Mr. R. Little, Public School Inspector of Co. Halton, Town of Milton, Town of Oakville, and Acting Public Inspector of the Districts of Parry Sound and Algoma, has just completed his inspection of the schools of this District. The Parry Sound School, which had been left till the last, was examined on the 1st inst. Of 184 scholars on the roll only 64 were present, and we only regret that every pupil was not there. The Inspector, who is well qualified for the important position which he occupies, threw out some valuable hints with reference to correct writing, &c. We are convinced that such visits cannot fail to benefit the young and advance our educational interests. In a new District like ours—so far removed from the front—we not only need but appreciate such exhibitions of training as those just witnessed. By such examinations our teachers are initiated into all the latest and most approved methods of teaching, and a fresh impulse is given to the work of training the young. We cannot speak too highly of the manner in which the examination was conducted, although we regret that the answering was not equal to what we expected—being only a little over fifty per cent. It is gratifying to know that the interests of education are not neglected by the pioneers of this new country, and that the Government has nobly assisted in this important matter. In this District there are now twenty-four schools legally organized, sixteen of which are in operation. In addition to these, we find that four new school houses have been built, which are nearly ready for opening, and the erection of others is in contemplation. We find that the attendance at school during the past year has doubled itself; still we cannot overlook the fact that there is great room for improvement in this respect, for in our own school during the past six months the average attendance was only sixty-four, being about one-third of the number on the roll. The five best schools for average attendance in the District are as follows:—

- S.S. No. 1. McDougall.
- S.S. No. 1. McKellar.
- U.S.S. No. 4. Fergusson & McDougall.
- U.S.S. No. 1. Carling & Fergusson.
- S.S. No. 2. Foley.

Anything that will add to the effectiveness of our schools should not be overlooked by the trustees. A vast responsibility rests upon them in the position which they occupy, and it is imperative that they should discharge their duty faithfully. We have heard some complaints, which we fear are not without foundation. No school can be successfully conducted without proper furniture and equipments, and yet this is sometimes sadly overlooked. Not only is this the case in poor and remote sections, but in those best able to provide such apparatus. It is surely not too much to ask that every school should be furnished with *needful* maps, tablet reading lessons, and other essential requisites. The cost is so trifling that no possible objection can be raised, and would not exceed seven dollars, as the Government give one hundred per cent. on all remittances of not less than five dollars. The comfort of the children is another very important consideration in this work, and yet how little judgment is sometimes manifested in the design and construction of the seats and desks that are frequently in use. Let everything be done by the trustees to promote the comfort and facilitate the education of the young and rising generation, and they will do much to elevate society and bless posterity. It has been thought desirable that the standard of the attainment of teachers should be raised higher than it generally is. This has already been brought before the notice of the Department, and will again be urged. If this should be adopted an annual examination of teachers would be held in the month of July, which would tend very much to improve the quality of teachers.—*Parry Sound North Star*.

## V. Biographical Sketch.

### 1. THE LATE JOHN GIBSON, B. A.

The subject of this obituary sketch, John Gibson, B. A., F. G. S., F. B. S. E., &c., was born in Galt, Ont., in 1851. His father, the Rev. Hamilton Gibson, M. A., was for some years Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Galt, in connection with the Church of Scotland. Young Mr. Gibson received his early education in the public school in Bayfield, and prepared for the university in the Clinton high school. He obtained on matriculation into the Toronto university, first-class honours, besides a high place in other branches. He kept up classics until the end of the third year, ob-

taining the prize for Latin verse, which is seldom given. (His excursions into the realm of poetry were not, moreover, confined to this elegant piece of Latinity—some of his English stanzas have been published and widely copied.) In his third year he read the honour work in metaphysics, ethics, and civil polity, in addition to taking the complete course of scientific agriculture. He graduated B. A., in 1872, taking the gold medal in natural sciences. During his undergraduate course, he made many investigations in the field of botany and geology. The paper on the "Geology of the County of Huron," for which he received the McMurrich gold medal, and which was published in a slightly altered form in *The Canadian Naturalist and Quarterly Journal of Science*, of Montreal, Vol. VII, No. 1, shows how carefully he examined and reported the facts. For one summer he accompanied and assisted Professor H. Alleyne Nicholson, M. D., D. S., &c., in a dredging expedition on Lake Ontario, during which several new species of leech, etc., were discovered and described. After his graduation, Mr. Gibson continued to investigate and write. He contributed articles to the best American and Canadian scientific journals, one of which—that on "The Salt Deposits of Western Ontario" (*Am Jour. Sci & Arts*, Vol. V, No. 59, May, 1873)—attracted great attention from American scientists and capitalists. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London, Dec. 16th, 1864; and a Fellow of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, Feb 12th, 1875; Local Secretary of the latter in 1876. He was for some years examiner in mineralogy and geology in Toronto University. In connection with Prof. Macoun, of Albert University, he published, through the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, several parts of what was intended to be a complete "Flora Canadensis." These monographs are of great value, and contain much that is entirely new. The same gentleman contributed to the *Canadian Journal* articles on "The Plants of the Eastern Coast of Lake Huron and their distribution through the North and West portions of North America." In the pursuit of his favourite studies, Mr. Gibson made many long, lonely and perilous journeys in the unsettled parts of Ontario, notably Manitoulin Island. The immediate cause of his death was typhoid fever, contracted during a scientific tour on the western coast of Lake Superior. The positions which he filled during his short career were the Head Mastership of Almonte High School, a Professorship in Albert University, Belleville, and the Natural Sciences mastership in the Ottawa Normal School—in all of which he proved himself a thoroughly-informed, energetic and successful teacher. He was, too, a genial companion and a true, warm-hearted friend.—*Ottawa Times*.

## VI. Educational Intelligence.

### 1. LAW SOCIETY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS FOR STUDENTS-AT-LAW AND ARTICLED CLERKS.

TO THE BENCHERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY:

THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION beg leave to submit the following report:

Your Committee have had under consideration the representations made from time to time to the Benchers, and referred to your Committee, respecting the different courses of study prescribed for Matriculation in the Universities, and for Primary Examination in the Law Society, and now recommend:—

1. That after Hilary Term, 1877, candidates for admission as Students-at-Law (except Graduates of Universities) be required to pass a satisfactory examination in the following subjects:

#### CLASSICS.

Xenophon Anabasis, B. I.; Homer, Iliad, B. I.; Cicero, for the Manilian Law; Ovid, Fasti, B. I., vv. 1—300; Virgil, *Aeneid*, B. II., vv. 1-317; Translation from English into Latin; Paper on Latin Grammar.

#### MATHEMATICS.

Arithmetic; Algebra, to the end of quadratic equations; Euclid, Bb. I., II., III.

#### ENGLISH.

A paper on English Grammar; Composition; An examination upon "The Lady of the Lake," with special reference to Cantos v. and vi.

#### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

English History from Queen Anne to George III., inclusive; Roman History, from the commencement of the second Punic war to the death of Augustus; Greek History, from the Persian to the Peloponnesian wars, both inclusive; Ancient Geography—Greece,