

1. That this Synod earnestly desires that such measures shall be taken as shall impart to the Common Schools of this Province, a religious character so far as its unhappy state of religious division can be done consistently with the rights of conscience,—and to that end, that all the Common Schools be opened and closed with prayer, and that a portion of the Holy Scriptures be daily read therein; provided always, that no child shall be compelled to be present at such prayers or reading of the Scriptures, whose parents or guardians shall object to his doing so.

2. That this Synod does not deem it expedient to seek the establishment of any other separate schools, except those which the members of the Church shall be enabled to establish, seeing that in contending for separate schools as part of the Common School system, they would only be seconding the too successful efforts of the Roman Catholic Church to inculcate its system of intolerance and superstition at the public expense.

Mr. GEDDES was surprised to hear one whom he had looked upon as one of the pillars of the Church, express views on this question such as Mr. Palmer had just given.

Mr. GAMBLE was sorry that this subject had been brought up, for he thought that any attempt to obtain separate schools would be a step in the wrong direction. It was most painful to him to feel compelled to differ on this point from men from whom he had received instructions that he could never forget, and it was only after the most serious consideration that he had come to the opinion that he had. He denied that the majority of the common schools were Godless institutions, and he went on to draw a distinction between Common School and College education, as in the one the children were only taken for a short time from their parents, while in colleges they were left home altogether, religious education was absolutely essential. He thought that the clergy should, whenever it was practicable, take the office of local superintendent, as they would thereby obtain a very large influence, and enabled to exercise a very powerful effect for good over the common schools. He thought that to attempt to extend the principle of separate schools would be to destroy a system which he believed on the whole to be the best in the world.

Mr. CAMERON said that no one could be more in favor of religious instruction than he was, but no one could say that it was practicable to have separate schools in the rural districts. That was impossible. Then they must remember that if it was voluntary for the people to send their children to the Church of England schools, if such were established, they might by declaring that they did not subscribe to the common schools, and thereby they would escape the tax and would not send their children at all. If they decided on having separate schools for themselves, they must give the same to all denominations, and if that was done they could not help feeling that the system would be entirely done away with, and the children would go without education altogether. They should try for what they could accomplish, and if they could succeed in having daily prayer in the schools, and had the Lord's Prayer and ten Commandments read, and the Apostle's Creed, and if the Clergy went once a week to give religious education to the children of the church, who would not say that the Church of England would not acquire a strong hold in the hearts of the people. He thought that if they confined their efforts to what they readily could obtain, they would be taking the only course that could lead to any practicable result.

Mr. BROUGH was of opinion that it was not practicable to carry out the separate school system, and he found that in his district the reading of the Bible was always attended to.

Rev S. B. ARDAGH, as a superintendent of three townships, confessed that he came forward as a convert to the common school system, for he had found that every year there were increased facilities for religious instruction, and there was now a petition before the Church Society for 250 copies of the Church catechism, which were given to the children with the consent of the Trustees, the approbation of the teachers, and the acclamations of the Church of England parents, and he found that it was possible to introduce the Church catechism into the Common Schools.

Rev. Mr. TOWNLEY said that they asked for nothing which they would not give to the Presbyterians, or to any other denomination.

The BISHOP expressed his opinion that after the discussion they had had it would be better that the motion should be withdrawn which was agreed to.

—*Colonist Report.*

COMMON SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF OTTAWA.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees the following resolutions were passed:

Moved by Mr. Cousins, seconded by Mr. Perkins:—That from and after

the 1st May, inst., the Common Schools of this City be opened to all male and female children resident therein who may be desirous of attending the same, whose parents have not subscribed to separate schools, without being charged with any rate bill, and that the Secretary do notify the Teachers accordingly. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Cousins:—That this Board is of opinion that the Common Schools in this city may be greatly improved by building proper School Houses, and engaging a more efficient class of Teachers, as under the present system, the children are often crowded into small rooms without proper ventilation, where both Teachers and scholars are more anxious to see the end of the day than the improvements of their minds—that, under such circumstances and with the view of improving the state of things;

Be it resolved, that a Committee be appointed, to consist of Messrs. Workman, Cousins, Egleson, McCormick, the Chairman, and the Mover, to enquire and ascertain at what price and on what terms of payment two suitable lots of ground can be obtained, one in Upper Town and the other in Lower Town, sufficiently large to erect School Houses to contain at least 500 scholars in each, and Teachers residences,—said Committee to report to this Board at its next meeting. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Workman, Seconded by Mr. Cousins:—That the Chairman be requested to order for the use of the members of this Board and also for the Teachers, one copy of the *Journal of Education* for each for the current year. Carried.

The Board then adjourned.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

From financial and other tables relating to the expenditure on education it appears that, in the year 1855, £369,602 was expended from education grants, making a grand total, since 1839, of £2,002,586. Last year £71,287 was appropriated to the building and enlarging of elementary schools; £6,154 to building and enlarging training schools; £2,455 to books and maps; £44,878 to augmenting the wages of certificated masters and mistresses; £142,806 to the stipends of pupil-teachers; £39,960 to normal schools, and £30,241 to inspection. £239,997 was expended on Church of England schools, £14,975 on Wesleyan schools, £13,272 on Romanist schools in Great Britain, and £9,802 on workhouse schools. In Scotland the Established Church schools received £22,959, and the Free-church schools £20,693. The number of children for whom new schools were built from 1839 to 1854 amounted to 438,980, the number for whom schools were enlarged and improved to 19,081, and the number for whom accommodation was created, improved, or extended to 458,061. Last year new schools were built for 33,460 children, and the number of children for whom accommodation was created, extended, or improved was 36,918. The number of certificated teachers actually employed in teaching amounts to 3,432 (2,242 men and 1,190 women,) the number of assistant-teachers to 221 (of whom 48 are women,) and the number of pupil-teachers to 8,524. The number of persons presented for examination to Her Majesty's inspectors between 1841 and 1852 amounted to 4,407, and of these 2,882 received certificates—283 of the first class, 1,027 of the second, and 1,572 of the third class. 417 teachers have thrown up their vocation for other more profitable occupations, and 241 on account of ill-health or death. 9,788 pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors were trained at the public expense to become teachers, but were not received into the normal schools between 1847 and 1855. . . . Her Majesty intends laying the corner stone of the Wellington Memorial College on the 4th of June. . . . At the instance of the Archbishop of York an Educational Conference will be held in that City early in July. . . . We regret having to announce the death of Sir Wm. Hamilton, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, at the Edinburgh University. . . . Dr. Sullivan, of the Dublin Normal School, has recently issued three numbers of a publication, entitled, "Papers on Popular Education, original and selected, for the use of the managers and teachers of Elementary Schools." The work has been discontinued. . . . The Queen has appointed James Clerk Maxwell, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, to be Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of Marischal College, Aberdeen.

PROGRESS OF INSTRUCTION IN ART.

Notwithstanding the war, Birkenhead, Andover, Southampton, Plymouth, Belfast, Cork, and Limerick, have established, or re-established schools of art during the past year, making at the present time a total of 63 schools