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EDITOR and PROPRIETOR.

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COPY OF CERTIFICATE.
We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that Wm. Mumford Clarke has this day successfully passed his first degree in Music, and therefore he shall be classed as a Professor.

Signed (W. F. C. BACHELOR, M. D. H. W. BAXTER, M. M. London, Eng. 3rd. Richmond Hill April 30th.

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Exams. & Presentations.

RICHMOND HILL.
On the afternoon of Friday last, our High School was closed for the Christmas vacation in a manner at once pleasing and pathetic. About two o'clock, Mr. Robert Marsh entered the main classroom, and requested Mr. McBride's presence on the platform, causing the principal a little astonishment by further calling up Miss Mary Trench. In the young lady's hand fluttered several sheets of paper fastened together by a coquettish piece of ribbon. In a slightly nervous, but clear and distinct voice, she proceeded to read the following address.

Mr. JOHN McBRIDE, B.A., Head Master Richmond Hill High School.

DEAR SIR,—On the eve of your departure from us to enter on the study of medicine, we wish to express to you the feelings to which such an occurrence naturally gives rise.
In the two years during which you have been principal of our High School, our intercourse has been marked by scarcely the shadow of aught that is disagreeable. In you we have always found one ever anxious to promote, so far as lay in your power, our very best interests. Time, trouble, labor, all have seemed as nothing to you in your desire to advance us both intellectually and socially. We are quite old enough to be aware how great are the trials to which, under the most favorable circumstances, a teacher's patience and powers of endurance are of necessity subjected. But in all your words, and all your actions to us, we have experienced neither harshness nor peevishness. On the contrary, as much as possible, you have always made the school-room the abode of pleasure and comfort. And now before you leave us, we gladly seize the opportunity to tell you how deeply grateful we are for all that you have done for us and have been to us. We beg to assure you that you carry away our very best wishes. We trust that in the new profession which you have selected you may have that most of success which is due to high ability and to a kind and generous heart. And we ask you to accept of this small present as a slight earnest of the good-will we bear you.
May the happy season on which we are now entering, be to you the commencement of a life happy to its close. May the peace which it procures to all the world encourage and gladden you wherever you may be.
Signed on behalf of the school,
M. M. MORTON, J. SKERLE,
IDA WELLS, R. WINTER.
Dec. 18th, 1885.

Mr. McBride's feelings, on taking from Mr. Marsh's hands the present, a very handsome case of surgical instruments, completely overcame him. Yet we venture to say that, great a favorite as he always has been, never was he held in higher estimation by the scholars than when, struggling with the deepest emotion, he thanked them for the tangible expression of their good-will. Mr. Marsh closed the proceedings with a few sterling remarks. After kind and flattering mention of both Mr. McBride and his successor, he reminded the scholars of their great advantages. 'Remember,' said he, 'that a good character and a good education together make the best foundation for a successful and honorable discharge of the duties of life.' Then enforcing what he said with examples of old pupils of R. H. H. S., he declared the school closed for the holidays.

Last Friday afternoon a very pleasing entertainment was held in the Temperance Hall by the teachers and pupils of the Public School, and attracted quite a number of visitors. The programme consisted of singing by the school, dialogues and recitations. A juvenile class, conducted by Miss Cruickshank, gave several kindergarten songs, in a manner which showed that they had been carefully trained. The entertainment was very interesting, and reflected much credit on both teachers and pupils. At the close the teachers and pupils of the different departments presented Miss Cruickshank, who is retiring, with six handsomely bound volumes, accompanied by a flattering address which we append. The chairman of the school board, Mr. R. Marsh, replied in behalf of Miss Cruickshank, assuring the givers that their token of appreciation would not soon be forgotten. The following is the address:—

DEAR MISS CRUICKSHANK,—
On behalf of the teachers and pupils of our school, I wish to express to you our heartfelt regret at your approaching departure from among us, and to assure you that the pleasant associations of the past two years will not soon be forgotten by us. We feel convinced that in whatever work you may hereafter engage, the same results will follow, and that wherever you may be placed you will make many friends, but never more true than those you leave in our village. May the choicest blessings of Heaven be yours in this life, and in that which is to come, is the wish of teachers and pupils of Richmond Hill Public School.
In conclusion, allow me to offer for your acceptance this slight token of our love and esteem, with the wish that you may spend many pleasant hours in the perusal of these volumes.
Signed on behalf of the scholars and teachers,
E. A. SPRAGUE,
T. M. RUTHERFORD,
M. WILEY.
Dec. 18th, 1885.

VICTORIA SQUARE.

The Xmas Examination of S. S. No. 4, Markham, took place on the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 18th, and was largely attended by residents of the "Bee Hive" section. The examination was a success, and great praise is due to their zealous, energetic, painstaking teacher, Mr. Ramsey, for the progress the pupils have made during the three years they have been under his charge. His duties have been performed with very satisfactory results. At the examination, Mr. Ramsey was assisted by Messrs. McConaghy and Thomson. A very attractive feature of the examination was the presentation of prizes to the pupils, which was followed

by the presentation of an address and a valuable gold-headed cane as a parting token of respect to Mr. Ramsey by his pupils. The following address was read:

GEORGE RAMSEY, Esq.,
DEAR TEACHER,—We, the pupils of S. S. No. 4, Markham, having heard with sincere regret that you have resigned your position as our teacher, take this opportunity to express our sorrow for the departure of a kind and diligent instructor. Coming amongst us a stranger, and therefore not possessing that influence which is sometimes almost paramount in placing its possessor, whether deserved or not, in a good position, you have attained that proud elevation without any seeming effort on your part. It has been attained by what we believe to be natural to you—goodness of heart. During the three years you have spent with us as our teacher our relations have been of the most harmonious kind and if our progress has not been quite equal to your expectations, we are conscientious enough to admit that the fault was not yours.
And now, on the eve of what we hope will be only a temporary separation, we feel assured you will forgive us for our occasional thoughtless insubordination, which we are well aware, dear teacher, you will attribute to our youth and not to any disrespect to you.
In conclusion we hope that whatever station it may be your lot to fill among your fellowmen, you may be as you deserve to be—successful. And now, as a parting token of our kind remembrance of you, accept this cane, and although its intrinsic value may be but small, do not believe that we hold you so in our estimation. Signed on behalf of the school,
MAGGIE MCCAGUE,
ANNIE WELLMAN.
Dec. 18th, 1885.

Mr. Ramsey replied in very feeling terms, thanking the pupils and their parents for the many kindnesses received from them while in their midst.
Addresses were also delivered by Mr. McCague and others, congratulating Mr. Ramsey on the high standing that the school has attained while under his tuition. Mr. Ramsey goes to Ottawa to resume his studies.

ALMIRA.

The examination of the pupils of S. S. No. 12, Markham, was held on Friday, Dec. 18th. A large number of visitors from the section and from a distance, took advantage of the fine afternoon to turn out to show their appreciation of the services of Mr. W. J. Thomson, who has been teacher in the above-named school for the last three years, and who has resigned his position to attend Normal School at Ottawa. The various classes examined showed thorough drill in their work, and the excellent feeling between teacher and scholar shows that the scholars are ruled by the law of kindness. At the close of the examination, prizes were distributed to the scholars by Rev. Mr. McIntosh, after which Master Ed. Hitchcock read the following address:

TO W. J. THOMSON, Esq.,
DEAR TEACHER,—We, the pupils of your school, having learned with extreme regret that you are about to retire from the position you have filled for the past three years as teacher of this school, take advantage of the present occasion to express our gratitude for the interest you have taken and the zeal you have manifested in our welfare during the same. We have been under your tuition. Governing your school by the law of kindness, we have ever felt it a pleasure to obey and follow your instructions. Stimulating a hearty rivalry among your pupils, you have made a pleasure of what otherwise might have been a task. You have spared neither pains nor expense to promote our interest. In short, by your many acts of kindness you have endeared yourself to our hearts, and we find we must ever look back on the three years you have been amongst us as the brightest days of our lives. We beg of you, therefore, to accept of this writing desk, as a small token of our love and affection, though trifling as to cost, it may serve as a memento of bygone days and as such we hope you will prize it.
By this separation we are reminded that on earth the best of friends must part. Let us therefore hope and pray that teacher and pupils may at last meet around that throne where parting shall be no more.
Signed on behalf of the pupils,
E. J. HITCHCOCK,
ANGUS MCKAY.
Dec. 17th, 1885.

Mr. Thomson made a short but appropriate reply expressive of his thanks for so kind an address, and so beautiful a gift. The gift was a handsome writing-desk, the cover of which was inlaid with pearls and silver. Several of the gentlemen spoke of the regret in parting with their teacher, and of the rapid progress made by the pupils during the last three years. The school was then dismissed with a merry Xmas and a happy New Year to all.

SPRINGHILL.

The annual examination in connection with the Springhill Public School, was held on Friday afternoon, the 18th inst., in the school house, and passed off very satisfactorily to all. The large number of parents and friends who had the pleasure of listening to the children examined in the various branches by their teacher, Mr. J. T. Saigeon, and Mr. J. E. Clubine, of Maple, must have felt gratified at the prompt way in which the answers were given, and also at the general appearance of the pupils and school room, the walls of which were tastefully decorated with evergreens, &c.
At the close of the exercises, the children rendered several dialogues and recitations in capital style, after which speech-making became the order of the day. Many present spoke of the high efficiency of the school, and general satisfaction was expressed by all present.

One of the most pleasing features was the presentation of an address followed by a handsome present to the teacher, as a small token of the esteem in which he is held by the scholars.

To the editor of THE LIBERAL:

In your issue of Dec. 17th inst., appeared a letter from an individual over the signature of "Reeve" purporting to be a reply to an article of "Observer" in a previous number of your paper.

No attempt is made by self-styled "Reeve" to answer the arguments of "Observer," unless perchance a mass of vile calumnies and slanderous falsehoods be considered by him the proper method of defence in such cases. Calumny and slander constitute but a miserable subterfuge and none but the basest will resort to such weapons.

A man's speech is a fair indication of the character of his mind.

A weak case requires strong words and taking into consideration the latter one would be led a priori to infer that the former was weakness in itself. A most malicious and detestable attempt has been made to injure the character of a gentleman so well known to the public that I deem it unnecessary to enter any defence in his behalf.

I consider, and I believe the public generally will consider that the epithets contained in that article do not exist in the vocabulary of a gentleman, much less in that of one who may in any sense be considered a cultured man.

I should, perhaps, apologize to the gentleman on whom this obloquy is heaped in offering what he may consider a needless defence. Slander, after all, is perhaps best met by silent contempt. Any further reference to the matter would be but to lower myself, and I shall not therefore condescend to make further reference to an article reeking with opprobrium and thoroughly imbued with the rancorous venom of the—shall I say, gentleman, who ashamed of the natural outflow of his magnanimous and preeminently cultured intellect has endeavored to escape public recognition over the honorable title of Reeve.

Dec. 22nd, '85. CONSTANT READER.

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