

an average expense of more than twenty-five per cent. less than they could have been procured, if procured at all;—facilities which obstacles, hitherto insuperable, have prevented any Educational Department in the neighboring States from providing for the advancement of popular education and the diffusion of useful knowledge.

It is my gratifying duty to add, that this Normal School has been established, that these buildings are in the course of erection, that general regulations for schools are adopted, and books selected by the aid and under the direction of a Council of Public Instruction, whose proceedings have been harmoniously conducted from the commencement, and the members of which, with one exception, receive no other remuneration than the gratitude of their country, and the pleasing consciousness of promoting its educational interests in every way in their power.

Among the influences which have contributed to the gratifying spectacle of this day, not the least is the deep interest which your Excellency has always manifested in the education of the Canadian people; and I doubt not, that in all time to come, the recollection of the educational progress of Canada under the fostering auspices of your government, will be a source of real pleasure to Your Excellency. There are four circumstances which encourage the most sanguine anticipations in every patriotic heart in regard to our educational future: The first is, the avowed and entire absence of all party spirit in the school affairs of our country, from the provincial Legislature down to the smallest municipality. The second is, the precedence which our Legislature has taken of all others on the western side of the Atlantic, in providing for Normal School instruction, and in aiding teachers to avail themselves of its advantages. The third is, that the people of Upper Canada have, during the last year, voluntarily taxed themselves for the salaries of Teachers in a larger sum, in proportion to their numbers, than the neighbouring citizens of the old and great State of New York. The fourth is, that the essential requisite of a series of suitable and excellent text books has been introduced into our schools, and adopted almost by general acclamation, and that the facilities of furnishing all our schools with necessary books, maps, and apparatus, will soon be in advance of those of any other country. I confidently hope, therefore, by the Divine blessing, that many assembled on the present important occasion, will live to see Canada compare as advantageously with other portions of America in the Christian education and general intelligence of her people as she now does in the specimens of her latent resources and productive industry and enterprise at the World's Exhibition in London.

His EXCELLENCY said,—Rev. Dr. Ryerson, I thank you, sir, for the very courteous reference to my attendance upon this occasion, which you have just now read. I come here, sir, to-day, in the discharge of what is to me a most agreeable duty, and I beg, sir, to say that the gratification which I experience in the discharge of that duty is greatly enhanced by the very gratifying and interesting account of the progress and prospects of Common School Education in Upper Canada, which you have had it in your power to furnish. I certainly think that no government, which is conscious of its own responsibilities, can possibly feel indifferent to an Institution such as that of which we are now about to lay the foundation stone; an institution which promises, under God's blessing, to exercise a material influence in formation of the mind and character of the rising generation of the Province, and, through that powerful instrumentality, upon its destinies and its future; an institution, too, allow me to remark, which we must not regard as a novelty or an experiment, but one which has already—and on this point I may speak in some measure from my own experience, for I have had opportunities of observing the skill of the masters and the proficiency of the pupils in the Normal School—established its claims to the confidence of the people of the Province. Although, therefore, sir, I am of opinion that there are limits—and pretty narrow limits, too—beyond which the interference of government in matters of education cannot be carried without hazard to those great interests which it is its desire to

foster and to protect, I think that an institution such as this has special claims upon its countenance and support, and that I am, therefore, not transcending those limits, but on the contrary, that I am confining myself strictly within them, when I consent to take the prominent part in the ceremonial of this day which has been assigned to me. Sir, I observe that in the early part of this address you remark that, "the special education of teachers is an essential element in the system of public instruction of all countries in which the general education of the people is regarded as a matter of national importance, and that experience has shown the necessity and advantages of a preparatory course of instruction and practice for the profession of teaching, as well as for those professions and trades which are demanded by the necessities of every civilized community." Sir, nothing can be more unquestionably true than these sentiments. But perhaps I may be permitted to observe that their truth has not been at all times recognized. It has often appeared to me that within the whole range of human experience, it would be difficult to point out a more flagrant—a more instructive—instance of the error of putting the effect before the cause, than was exhibited in the course pursued by the friends of education in England and other countries, who, for a series of years busied themselves in building schools, and endeavoring to induce children to attend those schools, without ever enquiring whether competent persons to conduct them could be procured, and without taking any efficient and vigorous steps to supply the admitted want of competent teachers. Sir, it appears to me that in this instance, as in many others—this young country has had the advantage of profiting by the experience of older countries—by their failures and disappointments, as well as by their successes; and that experience, improved by your diligent exertions and excellent judgment, [for I should neither satisfy my own feelings nor the claims of justice, if I were not on this occasion to express my high sense of the ability and the zeal with which you have conducted the important department which has been committed to your care.] I say, that experience, so improved and fortified by the support of the Council of Education, the Government, and the Parliament of the Province, has enabled Upper Canada to place itself [as you justly observed in your address,] in the van among the nations in the great and important work of providing an efficient system of general education for the whole community.—And now let me ask this intelligent audience, who have so kindly listened to me up to this moment—let me ask them to consider in all seriousness and earnestness what that great work really is. I don't think that I shall be chargeable with exaggeration when I affirm that it is the work of our day and generation—that it is the problem in our modern society which is most difficult of solution—that it is the ground upon which earnest and zealous men unhappily too often, and in many countries meet, not to co-operate but to wrangle; while the poor and the ignorant multitudes around them are starving and perishing for lack of knowledge. (Hear.) Well, then, how has Upper Canada addressed herself to the execution of this great work?—How has she sought to solve this problem—to overcome this difficulty? Sir, I understand from your statements—and I come to the same conclusion from my own investigation and observation—that it is the principle of our Common School Educational system, that its foundation is laid deep in the firm rock of our common Christianity. I understand, sir, that while the varying views and opinions of a mixed religious society are scrupulously respected—while every semblance of dictation is carefully avoided—it is desired, it is earnestly recommended, it is confidently expected and hoped, that every child who attends our Common Schools, shall learn that he is a being who has an interest in eternity as well as in time—[applause:]—that he has a Father, towards whom he stands in a closer and more affecting, and more endearing relationship than to any earthly Father, and that father is in heaven—[applause:]—that he has a hope, far transcending every earthly hope—a hope full of immortality—the hope, namely, that that Father's kingdom may come; that he has a duty which,

like the sun in our celestial system, stands in the centre of his moral obligations, shedding upon them a hallowing light, which they in their turn reflect and absorb.—the duty of striving to prove by his life and conversation the sincerity of his prayer, that that Father's will may be done upon earth as it is done in heaven.—[Applause.] I understand, sir, that upon the broad and solid platform which is raised upon that good foundation, we invite the ministers of religion, of all denominations—the *de facto* spiritual guides of the people of the country—to take their stand along with us. That, so far from hampering or impeding them in the exercise of their sacred functions, we ask and we beg them to take the children—the lambs of the flock which are committed to their care—aside; and to lead them to those pastures and streams, where they will find, as they believe it, the food of life and the waters of consolation. [Applause.] Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the fitting or proper time to enter into details. Indeed, I have not voice or strength to enter now at any length into the details of the excellent system of secular education which is provided in our common schools. When, however, you tell us, sir, that an increasing supply is going forth, from year to year, from this Normal School, of well qualified teachers—that you have procured in abundance, excellent, well selected, and cheap text books—that libraries in connection with the common schools, are being multiplied all over the country—and, above all, that the zeal of the people themselves in the cause of education, is evinced by the augmented taxation, self-imposed for the promotion of that great object; when you tell us all this, I feel that little is wanting to fulfil the desires of the most ardent philanthropist and lover of education; I feel that if these influences are left to operate freely—if no untoward causes arise to disturb them—they must eventually leave the whole mass of our society. [Applause.] Permit me, then, without detaining you any further from what is the special business of the day—permit me, in conclusion, to say, both as an humble Christian man, and as the head of the Civil Government of the Province, that it gives me unfeigned pleasure to perceive that the youth of this country, of all denominations, who are destined in their maturer years to meet in the discharge of the duties of civil life upon terms of perfect civil and religious equality—I say it gives me pleasure to hear and to know that they are receiving an education which is fitted so well to qualify them for the discharge of those important duties, and that while their hearts are yet tender, and their affections green and young, they are associated under conditions which are likely to promote among them the growth of those truly Christian graces—mutual respect, forbearance and charity. [Loud applause.]

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel:—

SIR,—I was very much gratified on opening your paper of this date (29th July) to observe that you had inserted a letter signed "A," originally published in that invaluable Protestant paper, the *Church Witness*,—and as there are many who are prohibited from taking or reading that paper, and who valiantly, but most erroneously assert that there is no Puseyism in this Province—I would suggest the propriety of your reprinting a few more articles from that paper, which will in some measure perhaps, open the eyes of the careless and indifferent, yet true Protestants—(could their danger be once laid open clearly before them)—for instance a Communication in the *Church Witness* of July 23d, over the signature of "Latimer"—which may possibly, if read with a view to ascertain what course is being secretly pursued to destroy and upturn our Protestant Faith, and beloved church, prove a beacon of warning to some unsuspecting and careless churchmen.—It may not be *secundam artem*—Mr. Editor, for you to cater from the productions of other men, when they assume the shape of communications—yet I think the importance of the subject, and the able manner in which it is handled by these writers, will render their remarks very interesting and instructive to your general readers, and allow me most earnestly to urge upon and on all your subscribers who are opposed to *tractarianism*, to

take the *Church Witness*, which is only ten shillings per annum, and is a most determined and able opponent to that pernicious error, now making rapid strides throughout our Province, and by complying with my request you will, Mr. Editor, much oblige

A SUBSCRIBER.

Simonds, July 18th, 1851.

MR. THOMAS D. STOKOE,

Sir,—It is with unfeigned regret that we receive the notification of your departure from amongst us, but as you have repeatedly said that it was your intention, either to remain at home, or seek a location in your calling, as near thereunto as possible, we have thought it useless to request your remaining with us.

During the three years you have taught in the School of this District, we as subscribers are fully convinced of the benefits conferred on our children by your mode of instruction, your liberality, and moral deportment also claim our grateful thanks.

Whatever may be your future destiny, be assured of our best wishes for your prosperity.—But should circumstances permit (and should you change your mind) we would still be anxious to retain your services.

We are Sir,

Yours, respectfully,

Signed

Asa Upton, J. P.,	W. P. Turner, Trustees
C. O'Connor,	Jos. Birmingham,
J. A. Nicholson,	R. Wiley, M. D.
Sam. Darkis, sr.	Jacob Jewett,
Charles R. Upton,	Subscribers.

[REPLY.]

To the Subscribers to the School, in District No. 5., in the Parish of Simonds.

GENTLEMEN:—I thank you for the Address which I have just received. I am highly gratified in your satisfaction of the manner in which I have discharged the duties which devolved upon me as the Instructor of your children. Accept my acknowledgements for your kind wishes for my prosperity.

I assure you that the urbanity and respect which you have shewn towards me during the three years I have spent among you, will not soon be forgotten.

With every wish for your welfare, and the progressive improvement of your children in knowledge and virtue.

I remain, gentlemen,

Yours, truly,

THOMAS D. STOKOE.

At a Meeting held on board the steamer *Carleton*, on her return from a Pleasure Trip from Woodstock to the Grand Falls, John T. Smith Esq., of Fredericton, was called to the Chair and Chas. S. Everitt of St. John requested to act as Secretary. On motion the following Resolutions were *unanimously* adopted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Passengers be respectfully tendered to Charles H. Segee, Captain of the *Carleton*, for his extreme kindness and attention during the route, the willingness with which he assented to the proposal for the Excursion to the Falls, and the judgement and prudence with which he conducted it.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the party be tendered to F. E. Beckwith, Esq. High Sheriff of the County of Victoria,—to Wm. McLaughlin, and W. T. Wilmot Esqrs., for the hospitable reception which the party received from them, and the pains they took in pointing out the beautiful scenery of the Grand Falls.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the party be tendered to Mr. Hammond for the excellent accommodation which his house afforded to the party; and to the inhabitants of the Grand Falls generally for their kind and cordial treatment of all on board.

*Resolved*, That the Editors of the *Woodstock Sentinel*, *New Brunswick Reporter*, and *St. John Morning News*, be requested to publish the foregoing Resolutions.

The Chairman having left the Chair and Mr. Hogg called thereto, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the meeting be tendered to John T. Smith, Esq., for his able and gentlemanly conduct in the Chair.

JOHN T. SMITH, Chairman.

CHAS. A. EVERITT, Secy.

August 2d, 1851.