

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE following Selections are reprinted from the latter part of "THE SCHOOL HOUSE; its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements," etc. In this form the Selections will be found more convenient for use by those pupils who may be required to commit any of the pieces to memory for public declamation or recitation in the schools.

The design and object of making these Selections for recitation in the schools are stated in the following extract from the prefatory note to the work on "The School House," to which we have referred:

"*Selections for School Recitations.*—This feature of the work has been added to meet a want much felt in many of the schools. Too frequently the master,—anxious to give variety and interest to the routine duties of the week, and to cultivate a taste for correct speaking and recitation,—has had no choice but to select either inappropriate pieces, which possessed no interest for the pupil, or those which, otherwise beautiful in imagery and eloquent in language, embodied political sentiments and opinions, the very reverse of those which should be imbibed by young Canadians who, otherwise, should be taught to love and venerate that great fatherland, whose annals are so rich in heroic incident and noble achievement. To aid the teacher in his selection for these exercises, we have inserted a threefold series of extracts in prose and verse. In performing this duty we have sought to give a Canadian and national cast to the entire series. We have also had in view the various ages and capacities of the pupils. Short pieces have been added for the younger pupils; and we have even ventured to insert, towards the close, a few pieces of poetry designed exclusively for girls, where the mistress of a school may wish to cultivate the taste of her pupils in this particular.

"The *first series* of the extracts is taken entire from various Canadian speeches and addresses, which have appeared from time to time in the *Journal of Education* and other papers. The selection would have been more varied had the editor been able to procure additional materials. The names of the chief speakers,* from whose addresses extracts are made, and the local interest which naturally attaches to the speeches themselves, independent of their intrinsic merit and the forcible and eloquent language employed, are a sufficient guarantee that this feature of the work will prove highly attractive and popular in the schools. The editor has to apologise for the insertion, at the close of the first series, of

* Lord Elgin, Sir J. B. Robinson, Rev. Dr. McCaul, Rev. Dr. Eyerson, Hon. W. H. Blake, Dr. Dawson and the Rev. Wm. Ormiston, A. M.