

of disappointment that one or two gentlemen whose names were publicly announced, were absent. He had an engagement that if health permitted, Sir Allan Macnab would be present to take part in the public proceedings, and as he had not arrived this afternoon, he (Dr. R.) was painfully apprehensive that indisposition has deprived us of his presence, and observations. Although thus sustaining a loss, they had acquired a gain which they all would deeply appreciate, and which he more highly appreciated from the cordiality with which they had received the present address from the President of the Toronto University, Dr. McCaul. He would only further add in regard to matters of detail that they had found it impossible from the limited accommodation of the theatre to afford seats for all who desired to be present; but although they had not been able to accommodate all, they had done the best they could. (Applause.)—This institution stands forth as in some respects the personification, or the mainspring of that system of public instruction, which has extended its ramifications throughout every part of the Province, and he thought the results at which they had arrived would justify the delay which has occurred in the commencement of these buildings. Though he had given as much attention to this subject as ordinary persons yet when this task was assigned him, he felt most entirely unprepared to incur the responsibility without further observations, further enquiries, and further investigation, and he was satisfied that but for these previous enquiries, they would never have arrived at their present position. The erection of this building alone is a sufficient justification of the course which has been pursued. Had he not visited the various Normal Schools both in Europe and America, he could not have formed a proper conception of the adjustment of the various parts, and the proper arrangements in a structure of this description. The expenditure, which has been incurred, is a sufficient illustration. He understood from a gentleman recently from New Brunswick, that the Legislature there had appropriated £30,000 for the erection of a Provincial Normal School. This sum has been expended and this building does not in the slightest degree compare with those which we have erected for little more than half that sum. This arose from the careful preliminary enquiries which had been made, and the very saving of that sum is a sufficient justification for the delay, and he would say further that they never would have attained to this proficiency had it not been for the clear, comprehensive, and quick conceptions which are characteristic of the intellect of the architect of this building. He (Dr. R.) only found it necessary from time to time, in submitting the details to tell him what he wanted, when his acute mind instantly seized it, and suggested some convenient mode of carrying it into effect. He felt himself under the greatest obligations to the ability and generous co-operation that he had received from Mr. Cumberland, the architect of the building—a building which will stand as a lasting monument of his taste and skill, as well as of the liberality of the Legislature which made the grant for its establishment. [Applause.] Allusion has been made by the chairman to the establishment of a system of public instruction. The first bill was introduced by the chairman himself. Another bill was introduced two years afterwards by the Inspector General, and subsequently another prepared in 1846 was merely a perfection of that, and the present law is an improved conception of all the previous. The first law however has not been changed; but the subsequent bills have been merely supplying deficiencies which the progress of the system rendered necessary. While the Inspector General had been pleased to refer in a

complimentary manner to himself [Dr. R.] he had much pleasure in saying that although he had more to do with the Inspector General than with any other public man, yet he had never found him refuse any proposition that was fairly submitted to him, and reasons satisfactorily explained. He would say that from the time he first took charge of this department he had made various applications for pecuniary aid and he had never yet been refused one single recommendation, he had never been denied a farthing he had asked from the Legislature. He had been assisted in every possible way and to the utmost extent, that each successive government was able to assist him. In regard to the estimate originally made for the establishment of a Normal School, and submitted to the Legislature by Mr. Draper, it was intended merely as an experiment. Mr. Lerritt said it was entirely too small for the purpose proposed, and Mr. Baldwin rose in his place and stated that the sum of £1,500 was altogether too little. But the Attorney General said that the estimate had been made and he was not prepared to ask a larger sum. The Normal School up to the present time has been carried on at the original estimate made for its support. We have acted upon a small scale at first that the country might see the adaptation of the system, that upon that ground we might come at a future day and ask for a further appropriation. That period has arrived. We feel it necessary to say that in the new buildings we shall require a larger sum for its annual support than we have received heretofore, and he was prepared to meet this. There are some who are in the habit of instituting idle comparisons between Upper Canada and the United States, but he was prepared to meet these persons, and would say that we are prepared to carry on the Normal School in Upper Canada to an extent, and with a comprehensiveness of instruction far beyond that which exists in the neighboring State of New York, and at a much less expense. The Legislature of New York has appropriated \$10,000 for the support of their Normal School. That includes 90 pupils in the experimental school and two weeks practice of teaching. The school is built in one of the streets of Albany, and surrounded by no grounds whatever. We have grounds to the extent of several acres. We have an acre and a half for a botanical garden, half an acre for an experimental vegetable garden, we have a model school with from 400 to 600 pupils.—We are prepared to teach as large a number of pupils as in the school at Albany, and we have as large a number at the present time, and we have had 140 applications within the last week. We are prepared to conduct all these operations \$2000 a year less than they conduct the school at Albany without these advantages. He would say that the only instance in which there has been an excess of expenditure beyond the original grant is in the erection of this building. When you look at the extent of it, and go through the ample school rooms in connexion with it, and consider that the ground has been levelled and drained, and the entire building completed and furnished for £17,200, he thought every one would say that there is not perhaps so cheap a building on the whole continent of North America. He had stated that there was in connexion with this Institution grounds to illustrate the whole course of instruction given in the school by the operations carried on in the neighbourhood of the building. Every one will appreciate the additional advantages young persons, will have in going forth to various parts of the country, so far acquainted with botany and with the elements of Agriculture, as to afford useful and entertaining conversation to the agriculturists among whom they may associate. The tastes and feelings and social advantages of the country will be advanced by