

Yet when we consider that the generation has not yet passed away which witnessed the opening of the first common school in Upper Canada, it is no insignificant fact to remember that—without noting our, perhaps, too numerous Grammar Schools—there are now, including 147 Roman Catholic Separate Schools, 4,224 Common Schools in this western province; and that, through their influence, in many an out-lying township and remote clearing, the teacher is a centre of light to the little community, and the minister of intellectual emulation and growing knowledge to those on whom are hereafter to devolve all the duties and responsibilities of a free people.

Much yet remains to be accomplished. But no one can look around him on the costly edifices and well organised machinery, devoted to educational purposes with ungrudging liberality, by a young and struggling community, without feeling that the people have done their part, and proved themselves worthy of the good old stock of mother England. When, indeed, it is considered that all this has been the work of a single generation, we might be pardoned if we look back at times with feelings akin to envy on the noble educational endowments which the mother country inherits from the pious liberality of many generations. Nor is their wealth their only enviable attribute. From this distant province of the empire many of us revert with loving memories to her ancient seats of learning, and all of us can estimate the worth of such schools as Cambridge, wealthy in rich endowments, but how much wealthier in the memory of such sons as him I have already referred to, on whose monument, in his own College Chapel, are inscribed the memorable words:—"Let mortals congratulate themselves that there has existed such and so great an honor of the human race;" or of Oxford, nursing the accumulated largess of generations reaching back to Saxon times, to which one of the most gifted of English statesmen, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, has recently paid the discriminating tribute of his filial reverence, at the termination of his political relations with the University where his mind received its early culture and much of its peculiar bias. "My heart's prayer," he exclaims, "is, that her future may be as glorious as her past, and yet more glorious still. But if it is to be so, that result must be brought about by enlarging her borders; by opening her doors; by invigorating her powers; by endeavoring to rise to the height of that vocation with which I believe it has pleased the Almighty to endow her. That, as in other times, the Universities of the land, and Oxford the first of them, fed the mind and thought of the country upon the path of improvement, so now they may still prove worthy of that high office."

The noble vocation thus ascribed to England's educational institutions is not less fitly applicable as an exhortation to duty to each one of us, summoning us as the teachers of this province to lead the mind and thought of this country ever onward into higher and nobler paths of improvement. If industry and zeal for the accumulation of wealth absorb all other energies, let us the more earnestly show forth the value of intellectual riches, and guard the precious treasure of moral