

retired on full salary from the responsible post which for thirty-two years he had so worthily and honourably filled.

As to the estimate formed of his labours, I quote the opinions of two gentlemen, viz.: Bishop Fraser, of Manchester, England; and the Hon. Adam Crooks, Dr. Ryerson's successor. In concluding his report on our Canadian Schools in 1865, Bishop Fraser says: "Such, in all its main features, is the school system of Upper Canada. A system not perfect, but yet far in advance, as a system of national education, of anything we can show at home. It is indeed very remarkable to me that in a country, occupied in the greater part of its area by a sparse and anything but wealthy population, whose predominant characteristic is as far as possible removed from the spirit of enterprise, an educational system *so complete in its theory and so capable of adaptation in practice* should have been originally organized, and have been maintained in what, with all allowances, must still be called successful operation for so long a period as twenty-five years. *It shows what can be accomplished by the energy, determination, and devotion of a single earnest man.* What national education in England owes to Sir J. K. Shuttleworth, what education in New England owes to Horace Mann, that debt education in Canada owes to Egerton Ryerson. He has been the object of bitter abuse, of not a little misrepresentation; but he has not swerved from his policy or from his fixed ideas. Through evil report and good report he has resolved, and he has found others to support him in the resolution, that free education shall be placed within the reach of every Canadian parent for every Canadian child."

Before giving the remarks of Mr. Crooks in regard to Dr. Ryerson, I insert the following particulars from the Report to which he refers. They show what a wonderful advance our school system has made under Dr. Ryerson's administration from 1844 to 1875. In this connection I may say that few of the present generation can realize, not only the low status, but the positively inert condition of the Province in educational matters when the Rev. Dr. Ryerson took charge of the Department—thirty-two years since,—in 1844. Men who were fit for no other occupation were considered just the men to teach school; and houses which farmers of the present day would not erect as