

## PREFACE.

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whose recent address to the students of the Normal School, Montreal, we have much pleasure in subjoining the following extract:—

“I do not know that there is any practical suggestion which it would be incumbent upon me on the present occasion to make to you, yet there is one observation which I am almost tempted to hazard: I would venture to remind you that in your future relations with your young pupils you should be careful to remember that your functions must not be confined merely to the development of their intelligence and to the imparting of information, but that there is also another duty as important as either of these, and that is that you should endeavor to refine, discipline, and elevate their general behaviour, rendering them polite, well-bred, deferential, respectful to their parents, to their elders, and to their superiors. Perhaps in a new country, where on every side we are surrounded by the evidences of prosperity, where a spirit of independence is an essential element of success, where at a very early age young persons are called upon to fight their own battles and to undertake their own responsibilities, it is very natural that there should be developed an exuberant spirit of self-confidence. Now, what I would venture to ask you from time to time to impress upon your pupils is this, that although upon the one hand there is no quality more creditable than self-respect, yet on the other hand the very idea of self-respect excludes self-assertion; and I say this the more readily because I confess, if there is any criticism which I have to pass upon the youth of this country, — I do not say of Canada especially, but of the continent of America, — it is that I have been struck by the absence of that deference and respect for those who are older than themselves, to which we still cling in Europe. Now, to use a casual illustration: I have