

illustrations of natural history, &c., &c. the seats are raised so that the pupils on each can look over the heads of those in front. Thus, a class of sixty or eighty can sit with ease, and without moving from their seats, examine every point on a map to which their attention may be directed by the teacher.

In the upper floor of the Normal School building are the following rooms—

Class Room, No. 1, .....	56	0	x	36	0
Class Room, No. 2, .....	56	0	x	36	0
Class Room, No. 3, .....	45	2	x	28	0
Class Room, No. 4, .....	32	8	x	28	0
1st Master's Room, .....	22	0	x	10	5 1/2
2nd Master's Room, .....	22	0	x	10	5 1/2
Library, .....	42	0	x	22	0
Laboratory, .....	39	5	x	22	0
Laboratory, .....	21	6	x	12	0

The buildings are heated by hot air. The furnaces are in the basement, and surrounded entirely by brick-work; even the floors are brick. Water is let in from the City Water Works, and at several points in the building provision is made for attaching hose and conveying water wherever it may be needed in case of fire.

The grounds have been leveled and underdrained, and made ready for the purpose of conveying practical instruction in agricultural chemistry, botany, and vegetable growth. We anticipate much benefit from the practical knowledge which will thus be communicated to our future school teachers, and which they will be able to convey to the young farmers of the province. If it does no more than excite in the minds of teachers and through them in the minds of their pupils a taste for the study of nature's laws as developed in the process of vegetable growth and production, it will have served a useful purpose.

The length of the speeches delivered on the occasion of opening this important institution preclude further remarks on our part. Our report was taken in shorthand, and is as full and accurate as possible. The Chief Justice read his remarks from manuscript. The other speakers delivered themselves extemporaneously.

**The Ceremony.**

The chair was filled by Judge Harrison, chairman of the Board of Instruction. On the platform were Mr. Inspector General Hincks, Mr. Chief Justice Robinson, Dr. McCaul, Principal of the University of Toronto, Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Education, Rev. Mr. Lillis, Rev. Mr. Jennings, Mr. Ridout, M.P.P. for the city, Mr. J. C. Morrison, M.P.P., and Mr. Treasurer Howard.

The Chairman said that it had fallen to his duty, as chairman of the Board of Public Instruction, to preside at this meeting, and the Board were exceedingly gratified with so large an assemblage on the occasion of the inauguration of these buildings which have been fitted up for the purposes of Common School education. It would be out of place for him to make any remarks at this time, and more especially when there are so many gentlemen anxious to make some observations. He would simply state the order of proceeding and the first upon this occasion would be a short and appropriate prayer, and that those gentlemen prepared to make observations will be heard. He would call upon the Rev. Mr. Lillis to open the proceedings in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Grassett, who was appointed to do so.

Rev. Mr. LILLIS offered up a very appropriate prayer.

Mr. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBINSON said, Mr. Chairman:—It is an event of no ordinary interest that we are met to celebrate. It is now publicly announced that

the building which the Province has erected for the accommodation of the Normal and Model Schools, is completed. and has been taken possession of by the officers of the Department. The ceremony by which it has been thought proper to mark the occasion, occurs at a moment when my time and thoughts are unavoidably so engrossed by the judicial duties in which I am daily engaged, and of which the performance cannot be postponed, that I have found it difficult to comply with the request of Dr. Ryerson, that I would take a part, however unimportant, in the proceedings. It would have been more difficult for me, however, wholly to decline a request which I could not but feel that the Superintendent of this most important institution had a right to make, not more on account of the deep interest which ought to be taken in the work in which he is engaged, than on account of the ability and industry and the unabated zeal with which he devotes himself to the duty. I must hope that from a consideration of the circumstances I have mentioned, you will be disposed to receive with indulgence the observations which I venture to offer, however little worthy they may seem of the cause and of the occasion, and of the spacious and elegant hall devoted to education in which they are delivered. The larger portion of this audience are probably, like myself, not entitled to speak with confidence of the grace and propriety of architectural designs, but it is acknowledged that so far as may be consistent with strength and durability, what the art of the builder aims at is to please,—and to please not those only who can appreciate his difficulties, but the greater multitude of observers who are ignorant of rules, and who when they admire, they know not why, give a strong testimony that one great object of the artist has been attained. I believe I am expressing the general sentiment when I declare my admiration of the handsome edifice in which we are assembled. It would have been inconsistent with the circumstances of this yet new country to have expended much of the revenues necessary for the supply of so many pressing and growing wants, in decorating this structure with the massive columns and elaborate carving which are required for creating an imposing grandeur of effect, but we have here provided in a style fairly in keeping with the country, and with the object, a large, substantial, and well proportioned building—of durable materials, and yet of light appearance, and in its interior arrangements, I doubt not, perfectly well adapted to its purpose. I have heard it generally spoken of as a striking ornament of the city in which it occupies a convenient and appropriate position, and by whose inhabitants I trust it will come to be regarded in successive generations with growing favour. In my own judgement it does great credit to the taste and talents of the architect, and I wish, for the sake of Mr. Cumberland, that the opinion came from a quarter which could give it value. (Applause.) But these are minor matters. It is to the system of religious, intellectual and moral training, that is to be carried on within these walls that the deeper interest attaches, for we stand now around the fountain from which are to flow those streams of elementary instruction, which while the common school system endures, must be conducted from it into every city, township and village in Upper Canada.—I might almost say conducted to every farmer's, mechanic's and laborer's dwelling, for the law has provided amply and certainly for placing, at no distant day, the education which can be obtained in this Normal School, within the easy reach of all. There will be no impediment from distance, no difficulty from straitened means, the most densely crowded quarters of our towns, and cities, and the remotest corners of our rural districts, will be sure to have their school houses, their teachers, their books and their maps. Whoever reads the common school acts and considers the provision which they make for sustaining and diffusing the system of instruction which they authorize, will see that its effects must inevitably pervade the whole mass of our population. And at what a time is its efficiency about to be felt! I speak with reference to the impulse given to agriculture and commerce, the spirit of enterprise called forth by the improvements in science, and the remarkable proofs which we are witnessing of the vivifying influence of increased population and of increased wealth. It would be

difficult, I think, to point out a country in which at any period of its history the results of such a system could have deserved to be regarded with greater interest—or watched with more intense anxiety. It is not only the city which this building adorns that is concerned in these results,—not merely the surrounding County whose inhabitants will enjoy more convenient access to this institution—not Upper Canada alone for the Lower portion of the Province is scarcely less directly interested in whatever must influence the composition, and acts and counsels of a government and legislature common to both. We may say with truth, that the interest even extends much farther. It is common for us to hear of that great experiment in government in which the vast republic near us is engaged. The world, it is said, has a deep interest in the result, and none it is most true, have stronger motives than ourselves for wishing that the experiment may prove successful in attaining the great objects of all good governments, by preserving order within the boundaries of the county governed, for it is unfortunate to live near a truly neighbour, foreign or domestic, and unsafe while we happen to be the weaker party. But in Canada, and the other Provinces of British North America, we have an experiment of our own going on, in a smaller way to be sure, but still on a scale that is rapidly expanding—and an experiment of no light interest to our glorious mother country, or to mankind. We occupy a peculiar and a somewhat critical position on this continent, and more than we can foresee may probably depend upon the manner in which our descendants may be able to sustain themselves in it. It will be their part, as it is now ours, to demonstrate that all such freedom of action as is consistent with rational liberty, with public peace, and with individual security, can be enjoyed under a constitutional monarchy as fully as under the purest democracy on earth—to prove that in proportion as intelligence increases what is meant by liberty is better understood, and what is soundest and most stable in government is better appreciated and more firmly supported. The glorious career of England among the nations of the world demands of us this tribute to the tried excellence of her admirable constitution. It should be our pride to show that far removed as we are from the splendours of Royalty and the influences of a Court, monarchy is not blindly preferred among us from a senseless attachment to antiquated prejudices, nor reluctantly tolerated from a sense of duty or a dread of change, but that on the contrary it is cherished in the affections, and supported by the free and firm will of an intelligent people, whose love of order has been strengthened as their knowledge has increased—a people who regard with loyal pleasure the obligations of duty which bind them to the Crown, and who value their kingly form of government not only because they believe it to be the most favourable to stability and peace, but especially for the security it affords to life and property, the steady support which it gives to the laws, and the certainty with which it ensures the actual enjoyment of all that deserves to be dignified with the name of freedom. As soon as the Legislature of Canada determined to apply so large a proportion of its revenue to the support of common schools, it became necessary to the satisfactory and useful working of the system that an institution should be formed for the instruction of the teachers, and it was a great advantage that before the circumstances of this country first called for such a measure, and rendered its application practicable on a large scale, the efforts of many enlightened and judicious persons in other countries had been for years directed to the subject, and all the questions of discipline, distribution of time, methods of imparting knowledge, subjects of instruction, and the extent to which each case has been tried, had engaged the attention and had stood the test of experience. Many valuable books had been compiled expressly for the use of such schools, and great care and diligence had been used in making selections from the abundant stores of knowledge already available. And so far as those political considerations are concerned, which it would be culpable ever to lose sight of, we can fortunately proceed without hesitation by all these important aids, pre-bound by the common tie of allegiance to the same Crown, and having the same predilections in favour