

the country; their number in each District ought also to be increased, so as to give all the inhabitants an opportunity of educating their children, at least to the extent of an English Education even if they do not intend them for any of the learned professions.

(Signed) JAMES CROOKS.

TORONTO, 20th December, 1839.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
Toronto, 23d December, 1839.

SIR,

I have the honor to return to you enclosed the three sketches on the subject of Education which you did me the favour to transmit, requesting that I would make such remarks as might occur to me thereon.

Upon a subject involving, as it appears to me, the foundation of the property of this Province; I would not venture to offer a hasty opinion; but I am satisfied that no dependence can be placed on any system of education which shall not, in all its details and modifications, be essentially based on religion. I observe in the general plan herewith returned, that provision is intended to be made for Schools of Divinity in the highest branches of University Education; but the proposal for four District Professorships of Divinity, each so widely differing in doctrine, and supposed capable of working together, in and under one University, seems to me wholly and entirely impracticable under any modification.

In the proposed Grammar and Common Schools I observe there is no provision whatever for religious instruction, nor does the study of the Bible, more than the vital doctrines of Christianity, appear to form any part of the intended system. My opinion is, that any course of National Education which omits these essential and priary ingredients, must become a curse rather than a blessing to the community.

There are at the same time some very valuable suggestions on these plans, that of a Normal School for the teachers is one of high importance, but religious qualification is not alluded to as essential to this branch of the subject.

I am aware that great, and apparently insuperable difficulties surround this part of the subject, not perhaps altogether arising from the impossibility of harmonizing conflicting views, but from the angry and hostile spirit with which they have hitherto been most unfortunately conducted; I would fain hope that true christian feeling may yet be brought to bear on this not less than others equally to be deplored; but be this as it may, a deep and awful responsibility must attach somewhere, if a remedy be not speedily applied to the present destitute condition of these countries, as respects the spiritual and intellectual wants of the rising generation.

Permit me with all due deference to call the attention of the Commissioners to a charge delivered by the Lord Bishop of Exeter to his Clergy, as connected with this subject, and which will be found reported in the "Times" newspaper of 13th November last, they will there find embodied what I will not weaken by feeble illustration, and I commend it to their most serious consideration.