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WILLIAM CROCKET, A.M.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.

As previously intimated in the JOURNAL there has been a change in the Chief Superintendency of Education in New Brunswick. Dr. Rand, the late able Superintendent, has become Professor of the Principles and Practice of Education in Acadia College. He was succeeded in November last by William Crockett, A.M., late principal of the Provincial Normal School at Fredericton. Thus we have the almost simultaneous appointment of two practical educationists to the head of educational affairs in New Brunswick and in Ontario. This is surely a good omen for the future of this Dominion.

Mr. Crockett's career is so well known to our readers that it is only necessary to refer to it very briefly. He was born in Forfarshire, Scotland, and attended the grammar school there until his matriculation at Aberdeen in his sixteenth year. He spent two years at King's College then, and subsequently completed his collegiate course at the University of Glasgow, taking a creditable rank in classics and mathematics throughout his university course. He was early engaged both



as private tutor and in the parochial schools, and took the full two years' course at the Established Church Normal School in Glasgow. He came to Canada in 1856 to take charge of the Superior School at Campbelltown, N.B. Here he taught for five years, and was for one year Inspector of Schools for the county of Restigouche. In 1861 he was appointed principal of the Presbyterian Academy just established at Chatham, and remained there for the next nine years. Here he first became a teacher of teachers in a branch Training School which was established for the Northern Counties in 1867. In 1870 Mr. Mills resigned the principalship of the Provincial

Training School at St. John and Mr. Crockett was appointed principal of the Provincial Normal and Model Schools then established at Fredericton. In 1877 the school was removed into the spacious new buildings provided for its accommodation. In 1865 the University of New Brunswick conferred upon Mr. Crockett the Degree of A.M., and for ten years he has been one of the Examiners for Degrees in that institution.

Mr. Crockett unites in a remarkable degree the *sauviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re*, being possessed of winning manners and a pleasing address as well as vigorous, well-defined characteristics. Our readers are familiar with his style as a

writer on education. The following extracts from his address at the opening of the new Normal School at Fredericton give a fair sample of his tone and the spirit with which he enters upon the important work of his present office.

"The most earnest effort of the student-teacher should be directed, not to the solution of mathematical problems—though these are not by any means to be neglected—but to the study of the great principles of education and the methods of teaching most in harmony with these principles; to the study of how the native powers of the mind may be developed and its own inherent forces trained to assimilate the materials of its growth; how

the will, which is the force behind the scenes and the moving spring of all, may be stirred to action, governed and taught to govern itself. * * * * *

"But while much may be done to discipline and furnish the intellect, I hope that the great feature within these walls will be the influence upon character by developing and strengthening the true spirit of the teacher's work; by joining with broad views lofty and pure inspirations; by giving depth and fixedness to principles; by bringing conscience to bear upon the grand aims and the minute details of the teacher's vocation; by kindling in the heart that love and affection for the young,