

# HOME AND YOUTH

VOL. VI.

AUGUST, 1897

No. 1.

## THE POINT OF THE PEN

### THE DOMINION SCHOOL HISTORY.

Perhaps the most important of Canadian events during the year 1897 will be the completion of the new Canadian school history and its introduction into the public schools of all the provinces and territories of the Dominion. from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The study of the same history by all the school children of the Dominion cannot fail to have a lasting influence upon the minds of our young people and will undoubtedly have the effect of strengthening Canadian sentiment. The Canadian people owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. William Patterson, to whose exertions, continued for nine years, the adoption of a common history by the various provinces of the Dominion is largely due.

Mr. Patterson, who for some years has been the principal of Royal Arthur school, Montreal, began his agitation in favor of a Dominion school history in the year 1888, but it was not until a year later that the proposal was brought prominently to the attention of the general public. Mr. Patterson argued that the education departments of all the provinces should unite in an effort to secure a Canadian history that could

be used in common by all the schools of Canada. He said the history should be written by one man but should be revised under the direction of an examining committee of authors or teachers representing the education departments of each province.

Believing that if the smaller provinces at the ends of the Dominion could be induced to favor the idea it would be comparatively easy to bring the great central provinces of Ontario and Quebec into line, Mr. Patterson, in the summer of 1889, started for Prince Edward Island, bearing a letter of introduction to the superintendent of education of that province, and while on his way there he had the good fortune to meet Ontario's talented and energetic minister of education, Hon. Geo. W. Ross. They spent some days together, and Mr. Patterson availed himself of the opportunity to explain his history hobby. Mr. Ross warmly approved of the proposal and promised to give the matter most favorable consideration. He soon afterward became one of the most active promoters of the project, and to his co-operation, as minister of education of the premier province, Mr. Patterson attributes the