

claim, as one of its principal merits, the constant endeavour to secure that economy. One of the latest undertakings of the Association has been, in conjunction with the Royal Society, to attempt the compilation of a classified catalogue of scientific memoirs, which, by combining under one head the titles of all memoirs written on a certain subject, will, when completed, enable the student who wishes to gain information on that subject to do so with the greatest ease. It gives him, as it were, the plan of the house, and the key to the different apartments in which the treasures relating to his subject are stored, saving him at once a painful and laborious search, and affording him at the same time an assurance that what is here offered contains the whole of the treasures yet acquired. The Association has thus far obtained the establishment, by the British Government, of magnetic and meteorological observatories in six different parts of the globe, as the beginning of a network of stations, which we must hope will be so far extended as to compass by their geographical distribution the whole of the phenomena which throw light on this important point in our tellurian and even cosmical existence. It was our Association which, in conjunction with the Royal Society, suggested the Antarctic Expedition with a view to further the discovery of the laws of terrestrial magnetism, and thus led to the discovery of the southern polar continent. It urged on the Admiralty the prosecution of the tidal observations which that department has since fully carried out. It recommended the establishment in the British Museum, of the conchological collection exhibiting present and extinct species, which has now become an object of the greatest interest. But is it to be wondered at that even our public men require an effort to wean themselves from other subjects in order to give their attention to science and men of science, when it is remembered that science, with the exception of mathematics, was until of late almost systematically excluded from our school and university education; that the traditions of early life are those which make and leave the strongest impression on the human mind, and that the subjects with which we became acquainted, and to which our energies are devoted in youth, are those for which we retain the liveliest interest in after years, and that for these reasons the effort required must be both a mental and a moral one? We may be justified in hoping, however, that by the gradual diffusion of science, and its increasing recognition as a principal part of our national education, the public in general, no less than the Legislature and the State, will more and more recognize the claims of science to their attention; so that the State will recognize in science one of the elements of strength and prosperity, to foster which the clearest dictates of self-interest demand. If the activity of this Association ever found its personification in one individual—its incarnation, as it were—this had been found in that distinguished and reverend philosopher Alexander von Humboldt, who has been removed from among us in his 90th year within these last few months. One part of the functions of the Association can receive no personal representation, no incarnation,—I mean the very fact of meetings like that which we are at present inaugurating. These meetings draw forth the philosopher from the hidden recesses of his study, call in the wanderer over the field of science to meet his brethren, to lay before them the result of his labours, to set forth the deductions at which he has arrived, to ask for their examination, to maintain in the combat of debate the truth of his positions and the accuracy of his observations. These meetings, unlike those of any other society, throw open the arena to the cultivators of all sciences to their mutual advantage. The geologist learns from the chymist that there are problems for which he had no clue, but which that science can solve for him; the geographer receives light from the naturalist, the astronomer from the physicist and engineer, and so on; and all find a field upon which to meet the public at large, invite them to listen to their reports, and even to take part in their discussions, show to them that philosophers are not vain theorists, but essentially men of practice—not conceited pendants, wrapped up in their own mysterious importance, but humble inquirers after truth, proud only of what they may have achieved or won for the general use of man. Neither are they daring or presumptuous unbelievers—a character which ignorance has sometimes affixed to them—who would, like the Titans, storm heaven by placing mountain upon mountain, till hurled down from the height attained by the terrible thunders of outraged Jove; but rather the pious pilgrims to the Holy Land, who toil on in search of the sacred shrine, in search of truth—God's truth—God's laws as manifested in His works, in His creation. (Loud applause.)

5. REV. DR. RYERSON.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION IN UPPER CANADA—ELEVATING POWER OF AN INTELLECTUAL PRESS, LIKE THAT OF ENGLAND.

At the recent dinner of the Agricultural Association at Kingston the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, in replying to the toast of our Educational Institutions, including his name, spoke substantially as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen: At this late hour, I am sure I shall best consult your feelings and best appreciate the cordiality with

which this toast has been received, by confining myself to six minutes in remarking upon a subject which might well occupy six hours. It is something for a country to have educational institutions; it is still more for a country to have educational institutions which it values. It is something more still for a country to have educational institutions which impartially respond to the wants of all classes of the community, by whom it is supported with annually increasing energy and liberality. It is yet something more for a country to have educational institutions which are sustained, not by the will of a despot, or a central government as in Europe, or by the taxation of a central legislature as in neighbouring States, but by the voluntary action of the local municipalities of counties, townships, cities, towns, and villages; for it is the peculiarity of our Canadian system, that it depends for its support and extension upon these municipalities; and it is in the power of each of them to continue or discontinue the operations of the school system within its limits at its own pleasure. So that the complete efficiency and success of our educational institutions involves the elevation of the independent thinkings, and views, and efforts of the people in each municipality to the grandeur of a nation's noblest mission. And it is not a little gratifying and encouraging, that while every other branch of business and enterprise has suffered a declension this last year or two, as stated in the speeches of the gentlemen who have preceded me, as also by the press generally, there has been no decline in our educational progress; and the severe test to which our system of public instruction has been subjected by the agricultural, commercial and financial depressions of the last year or two has only seemed to develop more and more its strength and resources. It is true, that in the aggregate receipts of moneys raised for school purposes in Upper Canada, there is a less sum raised by Trustees for the purchase of school sites and the erection and furnishing of schoolhouses; but there is an increase during last year of 135 in the number of schools kept open—being in all 3,866; there is an increase of 21,046 in the number of pupils in the schools—the whole number being 293,683; there is an increase of \$22,687 in the amount of municipal school assessments; and there is an increase of \$60,402 in the amounts paid to teachers—the whole amount of teachers' salaries the last year being \$920,633; and the whole amount provided and expended for school purposes in Upper Canada being \$1,244,490.

Exception has been taken to our boasting of our institutions and doings. I think it is but an act of justice and an impulse of patriotism to recognize and avow the noble doings of a people, and to appreciate institutions which are an honor and blessing to our country. At the same time we must be sensible that our country and its institutions are only in their infancy, and our aim as a people should be upward and onward. And we may learn much also from the example and progress of other countries. While listening to Dr. Barker's very just tribute to the merits and claims of the Canadian Press, I could not but think that this essential agency of freedom and civilization would be greatly increased in power and usefulness, were there a class of men free from the distractions of other business, and from all extraneous dissipations and influences, to spread before the public, through the press, the concentrated results of their researches and thinkings on all questions of social and general interest. No one can read the columns of the *London Times*, *Atlas*, *Saturday Review* and some other English journals, without feeling that there is in their articles a concentration of intellectual power and research which no man can command and put forth amid the distractions and toils of daily business. Were there a class of men, free from all cares that would distract their attention, and from all connexions that would influence their judgments, to investigate and give the concentrated results of their own inquiries and reflexions on all questions affecting the well-being and progress of our country, how much would be done for the advancement of society, and how greatly would the thoughts and views of the people be uplifted and enlarged above those little dirty personal politics which corrupt the public mind and weaken the foundations of society.

(Dr. Ryerson resumed his seat amidst loud cheers, with which several of his remarks were responded to as he delivered them.)

6. REV. A. CONSTABLE GEIKIE, M.A. (OF GALT.)

NECESSITY FOR MEDICAL MEN BEING FULLY EDUCATED.

The Rev. Mr. Geikie delivered the inaugural address of the medical faculty of Victoria College, at the hall in Yorkville on the 3rd inst. After a few preliminary remarks he stated that the principal topic on which he intended to enlarge was the necessity for medical men being scholarly and lettered, and he would, at the commencement, remark that Provincial life was a life characterised by physical and commercial activity. The men who chiefly flocked to colonies were not the leisured, the wealthy, or the highly educated. They were the busy, the poor, and the unpretending. Crowded, jostled, and uneasy in the mother country, they sought in one of her colonies