

NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

One of the most attractive spots in Toronto are the buildings and grounds of the Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada. This department includes the Education Office and Depositories, an Educational Museum, the Normal School, with two Model Common Schools, and a Model Grammar School.

The Normal School was established in 1847, and is designed for the training of common school teachers, under the direction of a Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada. About 150 student-teachers attend annually during the two sessions, and receive tuition free, besides a sessional allowance towards defraying the expenses of their board.

The main building, as seen in the Engraving, is of white brick, with stone dressings, and is 184 feet front by 85 feet deep. The front is in the Roman-Doric order of Palladian character, having for its centre four stone pilasters of the full height of the building, with pediment, surmounted by an open Doric cupola--total height, 95 feet. In the centre of the building is a large examination hall, or theatre, capable of accommodating nearly 700 persons. The corner-stone was laid in July 1851, by the Earl of Elgin, Governor-General, who was a noble friend to popular education. The architects were Messrs. Cumberland and Ridout.

The grounds in front of the building, facing Gould Street, are beautifully laid out, designed no less to cultivate the taste of the teachers in training than to contribute to the gratification of the public. They are very much admired. They contain specimens of Canadian and foreign trees, flowers, and shrubs. The play-yards, gymnastic sheds, and cricket-grounds are at the east, west, and north of the building.