

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1849.

## SECOND VOLUME OF THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

The present number completes the Second Volume of this *Journal*; and although the amount of subscription received leaves a considerable balance for mechanical expenses for this, as well as for the first Volume, to be paid by the Editor, we have satisfaction in believing that our voluntary sacrifice of means and labour has been a useful contribution to the interests of Education and general knowledge in Upper Canada. We are truly grateful for the cordial and very general commendation of the public press, without distinction of sect or party—a circumstance which shows how broad and important are the grounds on which persons of all persuasions and parties can earnestly unite in Christian and patriotic action for the advancement of general education. We desire also to express our hearty thanks to many Clergymen, District Superintendents, several Teachers and other individuals who have promoted the circulation of this *Journal*; also to the Municipal Councils of the BATHURST, JOHNSTOWN, MIDLAND, and PRINCE EDWARD Districts, for ordering a copy for each School Section within their respective jurisdictions. Especially should we most gratefully mention the noble conduct of D. D'EVERARDO, Esquire, for ordering and assuming the responsibility of paying for a copy for each School Section in the NIAGARA District, previously to any action of the Council on the subject. Several other Councils have ordered a copy for each Township represented by them.

In our Prospectus of the present volume, we said that “while the subjects which have given character to the first volume of this *Journal* will not be lost sight of, another leading object of the second volume will be SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE;” and intimated that the illustrative engravings which we proposed to introduce on this subject, would “exceed in number the months of the year.” The engraved illustrations (large and small) of School Architecture which have appeared in this volume are 42 in number; in addition to which we have given no less than 24 illustrative engravings under the head of PRACTICAL SCIENCE AND ARTS—embracing scientific and practical explanations of Steam-engines, the Magnetic Telegraph, Optical instruments, &c. The whole number of these engravings, therefore, which have appeared in this volume amounts to sixty-six. We believe this feature of the present volume of the *Journal of Education*, is a new feature in the periodical literature of Canada.

In the expository parts of the Provincial School Reports for 1847 and 1848, together with various statistics, which have appeared in this volume, a practical exposition has been given of the principles and workings of our School Law, and the spirit and success of its administration. The *System of Free Schools* has also been explained and illustrated; and we trust the Domestic and Foreign Educational and Literary Intelligence, the various articles respecting the relative duties of Teachers, Trustees, and Parents, on the subject of education generally, have realized the expectations and wishes of our readers and fellow labourers.

There are, however, two other objects intimated in our Prospectus of this volume, which, we regret, have not been accomplished. We stated,—

“A third and prominent object of the second volume will be, the exposition of the means necessary for carrying into effect provisions which we believe will shortly be made by the Legislature for the establishment of COMMON SCHOOL LIBRARIES; and on the selection of the books by the Board of Education, short reviews and characteristic notices of them will be given in this *Journal*, together with the best and cheapest modes of procuring them.”

Unfortunately, no such provision was made by the Legislature for the year just closing; nor has any provision been yet made to enable Municipal Councils to take the necessary steps to establish Common School Libraries at any time; and the Board of Education has been denuded of the power of selecting and recommending books. We trust, however, these things will soon be rectified and provided for. Had the provision anticipated been made, the books for Libraries would have been selected in the course of the last Summer, and the Chief Superintendent would have visited the several Districts of Upper Canada during the Autumn, preparatory to the establishment of such School Libraries, besides fulfilling what had been intimated in the *Journal of Education*. Such were our arrangements for the season's labours.

In our Prospectus of the present volume we also stated,—

“Another object of the second volume will be, to explain any modifications which may be made in the School law in connexion with the present provisions.”

Perceiving that the provisions of the new School Bill (which was prepared before any Report of the operations of the present Act had been printed) would abolish several of what had proved most useful provisions of the Act under which the School System had been successfully administered during the last two years—that the Bill contained provisions which would be injurious to Teachers, burdensome to Trustees, detrimental to the School Fund, most hurtful to the general interests of Schools, as well as invidious against Ministers of religion in Upper Canada and School Visitors generally; we deemed it our duty to make no public reference to the Bill, but to give information in the proper quarters, of the character and tendency of many of its provisions. It will be encouraging to every friend of popular Education to know, that the constitutional advisers of the Government, having made themselves acquainted with the subject, and being earnestly desirous of promoting the universal diffusion of elementary education, free from any mixture with questions of party politics, have no wish to inflict upon the Teachers, Trustees, or youth of Canada, any of the evils involved in several provisions of the new Bill, nor to subvert the system, or stay the progress of the work already commenced, but are anxious to remedy its defects, to adapt it to the new Township Council System, and to multiply its blessings as widely as possible.

We trust these explanations will satisfy our readers as to our short-comings in regard to the two points referred to; and we confidently hope to be able to fulfill in a third volume of this *Journal*, and to witness in 1850, what we had hoped to have commenced in the second volume, and to have witnessed in 1849. We believe these temporarily retarding circumstances will result in the more thoroughly understood principles and more permanently settled foundation of our School System, and the wider diffusion of its benefits, than would otherwise have taken place in a series of years.

Since the foregoing article was written, the following Official Correspondence relative to the new School Act has appeared in the public papers.