

## PREFACE.

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The publication of a series of letters on Elementary and Practical Education, commenced in November last. When the first of these excellent papers appeared in the CANADA TIMES, it was not difficult to foresee that the continuation would be favourably received at the hands of the public. The result has verified my anticipation. These letters having now been so generally approved of, and the suggestions which they contain, being of such practical use, I imagined that it would essentially advance the cause of education, were they to be re-published in the form of a pamphlet. Having therefore, obtained the previous consent of the author, I at once determined to carry my views into effect. A subscription was opened to cover the expense of seventeen hundred copies at least; and to the zeal and generosity of the subscribers, the public will owe the publication of these letters in a more compact and permanent form.

The main object which the writer of the letters has had in view, has been to do away with odious national distinctions, to induce a better state of social feeling, and to found a better system of general education on a basis securing the rights and privileges of all classes, whatever may be their origin, religion or politics. These letters should therefore be in the hands of every one. They are intended to act on both populations, simultaneously; for which purpose, a French translation is also published.

I have no interested views in the publication of these letters. I am merely desirous of contributing my share in the diffusion of sound, honest and enlightened opinions.

It is probably well to observe that the proposed system of education, has particular reference to the late Province of Lower Canada, the first letters having been published before the re-union of the Provinces.

May I therefore, be permitted to indulge a hope, in which I trust I am not too sanguine, that all who have at heart the peace and welfare of the country, will welcome and patronize an undertaking of which all must reap the benefits?

JOHN JAMES WILLIAMS.

Montreal, April 1, 1841.