

dignity imparted to the subject by the persuasive eloquence of Lord Elgin. His eminence as a distinguished Graduate of Oxford, and his general knowledge of European Systems of Education, enabled him to speak with a precision and certainty which few could gainsay. It was a gratifying fact that he identified himself personally, as well as officially, throughout the whole of his seven years' administration, with the general education and intellectual improvement of the people of Canada. The first Bill, to which His Excellency assented in the Queen's name, was the School Act of 1850, to which I have referred.

Being in England in 1853, on Library and Depository business, Dr. Ryerson wrote to me there as follows :—

"I was glad to learn that Lord Elgin was to go in the same Steamship with you from Boston. I have no doubt it will have proved interesting to him, as well as to you, and perhaps useful to you. I miss you very much from the Office, but I do not like to employ any more aid without the sanction of the Government, though I could get no one to take your place. I would wish you to write me as to what Lord Elgin may have thought, or have said, as to our doings and plans of proceeding. If the Library plan succeeds, it will achieve noble results.* I feel that our success and happiness in the Department are inseparably united."

It was indeed fortunate for my mission that I was on the same Steamship with His Excellency, Lord Elgin, who was very kind and courteous, and to whom I entered into full detail in regard to the objects of that mission. Before leaving the Steamer, Lord Elgin most kindly promised to aid me in every way he could while in England, and gave me, in writing, his address as "Broom Hall, Dumfermline," in case I should have occasion to refer to him. He also added the following paragraph to the Letter of Instructions and authority which I had received, and which, in more than one instance, I found to be of essential service to me :

"I believe the object of Mr. Hodgins's mission to be most important to Canada, and I trust that he will meet with all support and encouragement.

"ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, Governor-General.

"September, 1853."

In 1848, Dr. Ryerson commenced the publication of the "Journal of Education for Upper Canada," and, for some years, continued it at his own expense. Subsequently it was made the official organ of the Education Department ; but, in 1877, after an existence of thirty years, it was discontinued by Order-in-Council. As an estimate of its value, as an educational agency, I here quote the following expression of opinion

* Lord Elgin always referred, in his educational addresses, to Dr. Ryerson's General Library Scheme as "the Crown and Glory of the Institutions of the Province."