

zerland, and in the United States, they have, in the true spirit of enlightened liberality, done much for the cause of education; and the Schoolmaster is, in fact, abroad everywhere; but no country has equalled this in its exertions and appropriations, considering the smallness of its financial resources."

JOHN LAWSON, Esq., City Recorder, seconded the Resolution.

J. M. STARK, Esquire, Superintendent of Schools, proposed the second Resolution as follows:

"2nd. *Resolved*. That this Meeting congratulates the country on the establishment of a Normal School in this Colony.

"When on the other side of the Atlantic, (said Mr. Stark,) the attraction which shone the brightest in inducing me to leave my native country for a time, was the establishment of a Normal training School in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. To aid the people in the application and working of their noble Free Education Act, to encourage and assist the Teachers in all their efforts after self-improvement, and their aspirations towards a more intelligent method of imparting instruction to their pupils and conducting their schools; and, above all, to lend a helping hand in the establishment of, and to organize an Institution in which young persons who intend to follow the profession of a teacher, might receive some preparatory training in the art of communicating instruction; such were the objects I had in view in coming to this Colony; and these I have pursued with all the ability and energy I am master of. It is, therefore, with feelings of no common satisfaction that now, after having been three years amongst you, I meet with you at the opening of the Normal and Model Training School. I most heartily concurred in Your Excellency's idea of signaling the event by an Educational Assembly; a meeting of the Teachers of the Island and of all the friends of Education who have, this day, honored us with their presence.—The commencement of any new undertaking is always an event to be specially marked. Even in our own individual experience, at the beginning of an epoch in our history, or the commencement of an enterprise, we usually mark it in some special manner. The opening of any educational establishment, in which children are trained to those habits, and instructed in those things which will fit them for the business of after-life, would be a matter of importance; but when we consider that a Normal School is intended for the training of teachers, who are to educate the youth of the Colony, from whom the rising generation are to receive their knowledge and enlightenment, I think that all present will agree with me in feeling that this day is a memorable one in the history of the Colony.—The pleasure which I, this day, feel in taking part in the business of the day must be shared by all those friends of Education who have long seen and felt the necessity of such an Institution; and specially by my much esteemed friend, the Secretary of the Board of Education, who, many years ago, recommended the establishment of a Normal School, and to whose long and valuable services in the cause of Education, this Colony stands so deeply indebted. To entitle any Institution to the name of a Normal School, there must be these two Departments: that is, the Department for Students or Candidates for License as Teachers, where they receive instruction in various branches, and are trained in the art of communicating what they themselves know; and the other, the Model or Practising Department, in which the children are trained where those principles laid down for guidance of the students are exemplified; here also, at stated times, they are required to conduct Lessons, under the superintendence of the Master; and thus acquire the Art of School Management. This building which has been in so handsome, and, at the same time, economical a style, adapted to the wants of the Institution by the Legislature, has, accordingly, been divided into the required Departments. Here the great business of Intellectual and Moral Training will be carried on, in accordance with the intelligent principles of the Training System, so far as the circumstances of the Colony will admit. The Education to be imparted here, will embrace what constitutes all true education; namely, Moral, Intellectual, and Physical Training. The Moral Department will be carried on by the opening and closing of the Institution with prayer, according to the regulation of the Board of Education; by a daily Bible Lesson (the first exercise of the day after opening) in which the truths and facts of Scripture will be brought before the children's minds by illustrations and picturing out in words, in language simple and easy to be understood, from which every thing sectarian or controversial shall be carefully excluded. In addition to this, strict attention will be devoted to the conduct and behaviour of the children, both in the School and play-ground, towards their teachers and their school-fellows. Principles of truth, honesty, and obedience will be inculcated, as the motives from which every action should proceed. The Discipline of the school will be maintained solely by moral suasion; and the rod, as a means of correction, will only be applied when all other efforts fail. The Master will rely on his own influence, or the influence of those motives which he will present to the children for the regulation of their conduct, for maintaining order and discipline. The *Intellectual* part of the work of training will comprehend Lessons in Reading, with particular *analysis*; the meaning, as well as the derivation of words; Grammar; Geography; and History;

Writing and Arithmetic; Oral Lessons in Science; Natural History; and the Philosophy of Common Things; with such other branches as may be suitable for the more advanced pupils. There will be no *parrot work*. No child will be allowed to repeat by rote a lesson which he does not understand. Every thing read or committed to memory will be thoroughly understood, ere a new lesson is attempted; and thus, by picturing out in words, by ellipsis, by questions given individually and to the whole class, the children will be brought thoroughly to understand every subject which the lesson embraces, led to form their own conclusions, and trained to think for themselves, and encouraged to express their own opinions in their own language. It is the peculiar glory of the Training System that it trains or educates all the faculties of the mind. It aims not so much at giving ideas to the child, as to training the child's mind to form correct ideas on every subject. While thus the heart and mind of the child are cultivated, we do not forget the requirements of the physical frame. Attention will be paid to the postures and attitudes of the children while in school; and, at proper intervals, all, both Master and Scholars, will retire to the play-ground, or *uncovered School room*, for the purpose of physical exercise and relaxation; thence to return to the school-room, refreshed and invigorated for their *intellectual* work. This important part has not been overlooked in the construction of the building, as may be seen in the size and arrangements of the rooms, the lofty ceiling, the provision for ventilation, the large play-ground, &c. In the Students' Department, they will receive instruction in the principles or the Science of Teaching; they will acquire a more extended knowledge, than they formerly possessed of the branches of education generally taught in the District Schools of the Colony; while, in this room, they will put in practice the instructions they receive, and be trained to teach, according to the directions, and under the superintendence of the Master. Since the 22nd of July, 22 students have been under training for License as Teachers. I would warn my friends here, and the people of this Colony, against supposing that three months' training at a Normal Institution can make perfect teachers. A three months' training is certainly a much better state of things, than having no training at all; but I fondly hope, that ere long the term of attendance will be doubled. In an Institution of the same kind, with which I was connected for many years, on the other side of the Atlantic, the term of attendance for the Students was, at first, three months; but it was soon found necessary to increase it, and now the usual term is two years. Normal Schools are a great feature of this age, of which Education has been the great and engrossing question; and this little Colony, in the establishment of its Normal School, has been but following in the wake of all enlightened states, both of Europe and America. I can, therefore, most heartily and warmly congratulate the community of Prince Edward Island on the establishment of their Normal School; and I entertain no doubt of its success, and of its proving a great boon to the Colony."

[Various passages of this speech drew forth most decided tokens of approbation from the meeting; and, on its conclusion, the learned gentleman was warmly applauded.]

JOHN MCNEIL, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Education, seconded this motion; and, in doing so, remarked, "that the present age is distinguished, beyond any former period in the history of the world, for holding the broad principle—that the light of knowledge should be universally diffused. Influenced by this principle, society now teems with intellectual life: and the light of Education is no longer an exclusive privilege, confined to the few, the fortunate, and the great; but now shines with as much lustre into the humble dwelling of the poorest, as into the mansions of the most wealthy. Sufficient, to say, Sir, in the glowing words of your distinguished countryman, (Phillips,) who in one pregnant sentence, spoke a volume, when, in allusion to his own country, he said, what we may utter in reference to ours—"It is Education which lifts our Island from its bed, and brings it nearer to the sun." I trust we shall attain one degree at least, higher to-night, than we were before. Education has been well termed the cheap defence of nations; and this reminds me, that our Teachers must now become our principal defenders. Our troops and our garrisons may be withdrawn; but we have still a standing army of schoolmasters, able and ready to carry the war into the enemy's camp, and to assail the strong-holds of ignorance and prejudice. In another year, we shall have a staff of two hundred Teachers, trained and disciplined, and drilled, as no local militia has ever been in this Island; and these two hundred Teachers, we shall have, in their turn, training hundreds and thousands of young and ardent minds, to fear God, to honor their Queen, and to love their country;—and, imbued with the principles of a love of liberty and a love of order, growing up

With hearts resolved, and hands prepared,  
The blessings they enjoy to guard.

The youth of this Colony have now a wider field of honorable ambition opening up before them, than their fathers ever had. If they cannot all obtain *free lands*, they possess what is as good, if not better.—*Free Schools*: wherein, if they rightly and diligently improve their time, they will find a richer inheritance than a fortune in money;