

found impression. From the first, your scholars will comprehend mechanically the principles with which you desire to inoculate them, just as they understand all things, but more late, they will be sure to be taken advantage of as circumstances shall present themselves. The impressions of childhood remain for ever, and are the last abandoned; moreover, they have an immense influence upon the destiny of him who has received them; it is therefore we ought to guard the early education and instruction of children.

The elements of agricultural science thus engrafted upon morality, would produce still more satisfactory results, if they were professed by teachers who were friends to the science, and who, with a view of becoming such, had spent a year or two at the Institute to get conversant with the intended good resulting to society. A simple idea, unaided by such means as are accredited by the habitant, however good in itself, has not sufficient in its favor to justify the hope of its ready and general acceptance. Only think, if you were so happy as to instruct your children to-day, who in twenty years hence will be the farmers of Canada, this single axiom of the science, "the soil renders its fruits in proportion to its treatment," how much you would have done to merit the gratitude of your country. Youths of Canada, whose fathers disdain the precious manures which enrich the fields, know that "the earth only renders in proportion to the gift," and retain but this one truth and your future will be happy, for your lands will revive again, and abundance will be in your homes, and in your moments of happiness, you will experience, I am confident, a sentiment of gratitude, a remembrance for the men who revealed to you the secret of your prosperity.

It is also, gentlemen, at this very tender age that I would learn the child to cultivate a love of industry, and that I would emancipate him from those prejudices which are injurious to his after life, by removing from before his eyes every thing calculated to blemish his understanding.

Immediately will you be able by these means to secure, not instructed youths indeed, but youths disposed to receive the instruction of which you have already exposed to them the immense advantages. Then you shall have surmounted a grand obstacle, for remark, gentlemen, that in all your efforts tending to estore light and progress, you have powerfully to contend against a bad will, and a bad will in a farmer is nothing else than a spirit of defiance and prejudice, which passes always from the parent to the child, by means of the education of the family.

By a more dexterous education you may destroy this defiance and these prejudices in the spirit of the child. Once a man is disposed to instruct himself, his ignorance is half conquered, for his prejudices have already disappeared. Very good, profit of this first success, take the

young man in his happy disposition, and facilitate for him the means of receiving the instruction for which you have been disposing him. It is here, gentlemen, that the schools of the 2nd order find their place.

OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE SECOND DEGREE.

When a good farmer becomes once attained with this fever of progress which begins to obtain even in the most peaceful countries, and wishes his son to know more than himself, what does he do? Major Campbell has told you, gentlemen, at the period of the constitution of your Society, and I proceed to report his words which are so strikingly true:—"On more than one occasion, said the Major, have farmers come to me, and expressed a desire to give to their sons, who appeared to have some talents, a good education; and the question has always been, to know how this could be done, whether it was necessary that the child should be sent to an elementary school, where I feared, that at the actual moment he could learn but very little, or whether it was necessary to send him to a college where he would be instructed in Mathematics, Latin and Greek: and from which after he had achieved his course of studies, he returned to be fondled and spoiled by his too indulgent parents, too proud of the good education of their child. Well, will he now occupy himself with assisting his father in the cultivation of his farm? No, such an occupation has become inferior to the dignity of the young scholar. In fact he must now become either an advocate or doctor, and thus add one individual more to those professions already too encumbered; the house of his father, the residence of his childhood is despised, the coat of domestic manufacture is replaced by European broadcloth; he establishes his residence in the village, and he administers law or medicine to every habitant who wishes to confide to him the care of his affairs or of his person, and speaks politics falsely and passionately every time he can bring two or three neighbors together."

Gentlemen, this picture is far from being overcharged, but this good father who dreams of a better future for his son than his own, is he not blameable? Perhaps I ought to exculpate him. This good man, ever since his infancy, is placed face to face with his ignorance, the crushing load of which has always been an insurmountable obstacle to his intimate and innate ideas. He sees upon this earth two classes of men, one powerful, who commands the other, and to whom obedience does belong. Which class is sovereign? That which enjoys the benefits of instruction. He sees every blessing which can flatter a man on this side, privilege, titles, honors, riches, glory, and all the other elements which constitute the atmosphere of happiness, from which he is excluded. He has seen nobility of genius supplant nobility of blood, and maintain the range of loftiest equality. He is called upon each day