

plied with a large stove for winter use, and with long desks and benches reaching nearly from wall to wall. No fine seats and individual desks with drawer and patent ink-wells and other conveniences graced the school houses of 75 years ago. Everything was rough and ready, and everybody managed to get along with as many inconveniences and as few conveniences as possible. Teachers required no certificate of qualification, and no machinery was in existence through which such certificates could be obtained if required. Any one who could read, and write a fair hand and work a little arithmetic was deemed qualified to teach—and these were certainly the days when the three Rs were the acme of a country school education.

The teacher offered much variation in character. In a certain country school some of the teachers which still dwell in the writer's memory were: 1, a Miss Young, a sister of Brigham Young of Mormon fame, although whether she ever became a Mormon or not I do not know; 2, an old Irish pensioner who had lost one leg in his country's wars, who could speak English with a brogue, write a fine hand, swear by Gough's Arithmetic of which he had a limited knowledge, and who knew nothing of such subjects as Grammar, Geography, History, etc., but who was quite popular with his pupils; 3, a man who was said to have been educated for the Roman Catholic priesthood but who had looked too long upon the wine when it was red, and who overindulged himself on Sunday and gave the boys a holiday on Monday afternoon while he was pulling himself together again—for the Lord's Day Alliance was not heard of, and prohibition was not one of the things considered in Upper Canada in those days; and others more or less of like character, and some of them morally satisfactory although limited in educational requirements. And yet the foundation, and in some cases the most of the education received by some of the strongest men in the progressive movements of the country was acquired in these schools.

This is a fair description of the country school of long ago. Those in towns and cities were undoubtedly better, but the