The Canada School Journal.

VOL. IV.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1879.

(From a photograph by J. W. Topley, Ottawa.)

No. 25.

HIRAM ROBINSON, ESQ.,

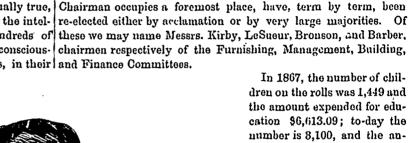
CHAIRMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD, OTTAWA.

It is so generally admitted that the extraordinary advance of whether any other city in Ontario, in proportion to population, is public education in Canada is, in a very large measure, due to the better provided for in this respect. admirable Public School system devised and brought into vigorous operation by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, ably seconded by his Deputy, ratepayers been with the management of the Board that, large as Dr. Hodgins, during the whole period of his incumbency, that it the outlay has been, the chief promotors of it, among whom the seems hardly necessary to allude to the fact, but it is equally true, though not so generally taken into account, that but for the intelligent zeal and hearty co-operation of scores and hundreds of these we may name Messrs. Kirby, LeSueur, Bronson, and Barber. noble-minded men, who, without fee or reward, save the conscious | chairmen respectively of the Furnishing, Management, Building, ness of a patriotic duty well performed, have, as trustees, in their and Finance Committees.

various localities, worked out the principles of the system. its success could not possibly have been so fully and extensively assured.

Among the cities and towns which have profited most by this philanthropic devotion, Ottawa takes a foromost rank. and among the men who have expended their best energies in the work, Mr. Hiram Ropinson, Chairman of the Public School Board of that city (whose portrait accompanies this article), must take a leading place.

Mr. Robinson is a nativebora Canadian, and, as his debonnair countenance indicates, a man in the full prime and vigour of life. He was born in the Township of West Hawkesbury, County of Prescott, in the year 1881, and is consequently forty-eight years of age. His own education was acquired in the Public and Grammar Schools of his county, which apparently has stood bim in good stead, for from his early manhood to the



cation \$6,613.09; to-day the number is 8,100, and the annual expenditure \$28,216.18. The Chairman being himself a man of high moral tone, the proceedings of the Board, ever since his occupancy of the Chair, have uniformly been leagues.

marked by courtosy and harmony--pleasant and honorable alike to himself and his col-The remarkable efficiency of the Public Schools of Ottawa was very emphatically recognized by the late Chief Superintendent and his excellent Deputy, and more recently by the Hon. Mr. Crooks, the present Minister of Edu-

cation, himself, who went to that city last year for the express purpose of making a personal examination into the condition and working of those institutions.

On the occasion of the above visit a reception was tendered to the Hon. the Minister of

lumbering house of Hamilton Brothers, of whose extensive business in Ottawa he has been general manager since 1872.

Mr. Robinson was first elected school trustee in 1867, and as his biennial terms expired, was invariably re-elected by acclamation, than which no better evidence could be adduced of the high estimate placed upon his services by his fellow-citizens. Upon the retirement from the Board of the late Mr. Slater in 1871, Mr. Robinson was chosen Chairman, and year by year has been reappointed to the office by the unanimous vote of his colleagues.

In 1867 the Public School Board of Ottawa did not own any school houses, but since then they have erected seven, six of which

present, he has filled offices of trust and responsibility in the great | Education by the Trustees of the Public Schools, at which an address was presented to him. In his reply the Minister expressed his pleasure at listening to the exercises of the pupils, and remarked that the answers given to the various questions went to prove that the system of teaching pursued in the Ottawa schools was a sound one. He expressed himself as being especially well pleased with the geography examination. He was much pleased with the evident progressive state of the schools in Ottawa, and stated that the manifest success of the educational institutions of the city was due to the fact that trained teachers had always been engaged by the Board. The school buildings in Ottawa, he was glad to observe, were excellent, well kept, and there appeared to be an are large substantial buildings, with spacious grounds attached, excellent feeling existing between the teachers and the pupils. He

and furnished with all the appliances necessary to the successful

accomplishment of the purpose for which they were erected. These buildings have cost something over \$72,000, and it may be doubted

It may also be worthy of remark that so well satisfied have the