

that same Council is the first in Upper Canada to acknowledge the receipt of the documents and Maps referred to—that the resolution of the Council was seconded by an old school-fellow, and couched in terms to me the most gratifying and encouraging; and that my first official letter of a new year, relates to topics which call up the earliest associations of my youth, and are calculated to prompt and impel me to renewed exertions for the intellectual and social advancement of my native land.

There is no poetry in the establishment and development of a public School system; it is a matter-of-fact-work from beginning to end; and its progress, like the growth of body and mind in an individual, is gradual, and is the joint result of time and labour. I am happy, however, to know that our School system has already become so far developed in its principles, objects, and character, as to command the attention and almost unanimous approbation of the country. I have laid it down as a first principle, to educate the people through the people themselves, by their own voluntary co-operation and exertion, through the usual elective Municipalities and other acknowledged and responsible organs of a free people.

No person who has at all studied the subject of comparative School legislation between Canada and other countries, can fail to observe, that there is an extent of local discretion and power in each of our School and County Municipalities not found in any one of the neighbouring States, while there are other elements incorporated into our School system, which secure to the remotest Municipality of Upper Canada the information and facilities which can alone be acquired and provided by a Public Department. But the rational conviction and voluntary co-operation of the people themselves, have been relied upon and appealed to as the basis of exertion and the instrument of success. When, therefore, steps were taken to improve the text-books of the Schools, a set of the books recommended was procured and furnished to each County Municipality in Upper Canada, that the people might examine and judge of the desirableness of the books proposed, in regard to both excellence and cheapness. In promoting an improvement in the condition and character of school-houses, plans and illustrations of school-houses and premises were procured and placed in the hands of the local Councils, and several of them were published in the *Journal of Education*. The same course has been adopted in respect to School Maps, &c. And in pressing upon the public mind the necessity and advantage of duly qualified School Teachers, an Institution has been established to train them; and the specimens of Teachers thus trained, (though but partially trained in most instances, from the short period of their training,) have excited a desire and demand for improved Teachers in every County in Upper Canada. I trust this year will witness the introduction of *Libraries*—thus completing the establishment of every branch of our School system.

In all this, there has been no coercion—but a perfect blending of freedom and unity, of conviction and action; and the entire absence of any opposition to the School system during the recent elections throughout Upper Canada, shows how general and cordial is the conviction of the people as to its adaptation to their circumstances and interests.

I have the deepest conviction of the strong common sense and patriotism of the Canadian people at large—a conviction founded on long observation and comparison between the people of Canada and those of many other countries; and I have a faith, little short of full assurance, as to the advancing and glorious future of our country. With this conviction and faith, and animated with the consciousness of general approval and co-operation on the part of the people, I shall renew my humble contributions of labour to the common treasury of Canadian progress and civilization.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) E. RYERSON.

STEPHEN J. FULLER, Esq.,

Clerk, Municipal Council, County of Norfolk,
Simcoe.

(COPY.)

DRYDEN FARM, W. VICTORIA,
December 29th, 1851.

SIR,—I do myself the pleasure of handing you the subjoined copy of a Resolution, passed at a recent Meeting of the Board of Instruction for the County of Norfolk. I also take leave to trans-

scribe another Resolution more especially directed to the local Superintendents of their County, but illustrative of the professed belief of the members of the Board, of the great usefulness of the works submitted by you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) JAMES COVERNTON,

Hon'y Sec'y, Board of Instruction for Norfolk.

The Reverend

E. RYERSON, D. D.,

Chief Superintendent of Education,

&c., &c., &c.,

Toronto.

"That the Honorary Secretary be requested to convey to the Reverend E. RYERSON, Chief Superintendent of Education, the thanks of this Board, for his handsome donation of Books, and at the same time to express to that gentleman, the high sense entertained by this Board, of the unwearied zeal and great ability displayed by him in the discharge of his arduous and important duties."

Resolved,—That the Members of this Board having carefully examined the Maps, Prints, and Specimens of Natural History, &c., forwarded by the Chief Superintendent of Education to the Clerk of the County Council, (and deposited in his Office for the inspection of the School Officers of the County,) have much satisfaction in bearing testimony to the great superiority of such specimens over those commonly used in the County Schools, and therefore earnestly urge on the local Superintendents and Trustees, the paramount importance of providing a suitable supply of such essential requisites for most School Sections in the County.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR U. C.

(COPY.)

EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, January 3rd, 1852.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, enclosing to me certain resolutions of the Board of Public Instruction for the County of Norfolk; and I return my sincere thanks for the terms in which my humble exertions are referred to. I rejoice at the judicious and earnest course which your County Board has taken to promote the objects I had in view, in presenting the publications to which you allude,—by examining them and recommending the general introduction of them into the Schools of the County, I hope the poorest boy in my native County may have access to a better Common School than existed there when I was a lad. What I witnessed and felt in my boyhood, gave birth to the strongest impulses of my own mind, to do what I could to place the means and facilities of mental development and culture within the reach of every youth in the land.

I am more than gratified, I am profoundly impressed, that such efforts are made for the interests of the young, and of future generations in the County of Norfolk. That County is dear to me by a thousand tender recollections; and I still seem to hear in the midst of it, a voice issuing from a mother's grave, as was wont formerly from the living tongue, telling me that the only life worthy the name, is that which makes man one with his fellow-man, and with his country.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) E. RYERSON.

JAMES COVERNTON, Esq.,

Honorary Secretary, Board of Public Instruction,
County of Norfolk, Victoria.

FREE SCHOOL LECTURE.

BY THE REV. JOHN ARMOUR.

PORT SARINIA, 13TH NOV., 1851.

To the Editor of the *Journal of Education*.

SIR,—The following Lecture has been delivered in several School Sections in this neighbourhood. I send you, at present, the first argument which was urged on those occasions on behalf of Free Schools. If you judge the subject and manner of treating it sufficiently important for your excellent *Journal*, I will forward the rest of the Lecture in separate sheets, suitable for your monthly miscellany. It contains six separate arguments. You have in this the first, and if you deem it suitable, it is at your disposal.

J. A.