

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1850.

**JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.**—We observe that certain newspapers have represented this *Journal* as a source of pecuniary gain to the Head of the Education Office, and that such was the design of the provisions of the new School Act, authorizing and requiring each Trustee Corporation to procure annually for the benefit of their School Section, a copy of some periodical exclusively devoted to education.

Persons who are conscious of no higher than pecuniary motives of action, are, of course, incapable of conceiving higher motives in the conduct of others. Such persons are rather to be pitied than reasoned with. And persons who have sought, by every means at their command, for years past, to misrepresent and oppose any public school system sanctioned by the example and experience of other countries, republican as well as monarchical, may be expected to use their utmost efforts to oppose even the circulation of a *Journal of Education*, though the responsibility and labour of editing and publishing that *Journal* be a *gratuitous* contribution to the cause of intellectual and social progress. Several months since, when injurious imputations of a pecuniary character were made against the Chief Superintendent of Schools, by one of the newspapers which have put forth this new charge, he wrote a private note to the proprietor of that newspaper, offering to show him all the books of the Education Office in which the moneys referred to were accounted for, and the mode of accounting for them. That offer was not accepted; but in the columns of the same paper similar imputations have been reiterated again and again down to the present time. Candid persons of all parties can judge, whether such imputations are put forth with a view of propagating truth and promoting the public interests, or of gratifying animosity and advancing objects which it might not be prudent to avow.

The Chief Superintendent of Schools being an officer of the Government, and the *Journal of Education* recognized as the medium of official notices of the Department, the Government have a right to ask, at any time whether he, or any officer in the department derives any pecuniary advantage from the publication of the *Journal*; and it is quite competent for any member of the Legislative Assembly to ask for information, or to move for a committee to examine every person connected with the Education Office on every particular connected with the receipts and expenditures of money relating to the *Journal of Education*. There can therefore be no difficulty at any time hereafter, as there has been none heretofore, in ascertaining whether the Chief Superintendent of Schools ever derives one farthing's advantage from the *Journal of Education*.

Let any person read the three volumes of the *Journal of Education* which will soon be completed, and before he shall have half accomplished his task, he will be able to form a strong conception of the labour required simply to prepare the matter for the publication, apart from the additional labour required in correcting the proofs, keeping the accounts, and addressing the monthly numbers of such a periodical. That labour has been voluntarily performed by those connected with the Education Office without a farthing's remuneration during nearly three years; and it will be so performed in time to come. Such a course of proceeding may merit the further reward of opposition, misrepresentation and abuse in the feelings and policy of some three or four newspaper editors; but we hope such feelings are confined, in a great degree, to the writers themselves, and are duly appreciated by the public at large.

It would add much more to our satisfaction than to our labour, should a greatly increased circulation of the *Journal of Education* enable us to increase the amount of matter which it contains, to add engravings or illustrations in different branches of natural history, as well as of arts and science, and to secure literary correspondents both in the United States and in Europe—thus obtaining brief periodical accounts of the progress of educational systems and general knowledge in all educating countries. But of this much all parties concerned may be assured,—that they shall have every reasonable facility from time to time to satisfy them of the fact,—that the officers of the Education Department will derive no pecuniary benefit from the *Journal of Education* under any circumstances whatever, and that as long as it shall continue under its present manage-

ment, the amount of subscriptions will be expended in defraying the expenses connected with the mechanical departments of the *Journal*, and in adding to the value of its pages.

We hope the newspapers that have inserted the imputations above referred to, will have the fairness to insert this brief and general reply to them.

**SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE IN UPPER CANADA.**—The 41st section of the School Act authorizes the expenditure of "a sum not exceeding two hundred pounds in any one year to procure plans and publications for the improvement of School Architecture and practical science in connexion with Common Schools." By the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General, in Council, the Chief Superintendent of Schools has procured 400 copies of the Hon. HENRY BARNARD'S unrivalled work on *School Architecture*, and will soon have the pleasure of presenting a copy to each of the County, Township, City, Town, and incorporated Village Councils, or School Corporations, in Upper Canada. This work contains the designs for school houses which have been recommended by the Educational Committee of the Privy Council in England, as well as the best designs for the school houses which have been built in the United States. The Hon. JAMES WADSWORTH has purchased 1,000 copies of it, in order to supply each town and township in the State of New-York with a copy. The following passage from the last annual Report of the Hon. S. W. BEERS, late Superintendent of Public Schools in the State of Connecticut, will give some faint idea of the extent and value of this work:—

"A copy of a Treatise on School Architecture, an octavo volume of nearly four hundred pages, containing upwards of three hundred illustrations, and embracing all the important improvements which have been made in the last few years in the construction of school-houses for schools of every grade, from the infant school to a Normal School, with the best modes of heating, warming, and ventilating the same, was procured by the Superintendent under the authority of a Resolution of the last General Assembly, and forwarded for general reference to the Clerk of each School Society, [of a Township] with the directions for its use and preservation. The want so long felt of a suitable treatise in which all the latest information in regard to the principles to be observed, and the purposes to be fulfilled in a school-house, should be embraced, with suitable plans for the construction and arrangement of seats, desks, warming, and ventilating apparatus, are well supplied in this work."

## PREMISES AND BUILDINGS FOR THE NORMAL SCHOOL, U. CANADA.

—In the last number of this *Journal*, we adverted to the gratifying fact, that our Legislature, at its late Session, had appropriated £15,000 or \$60,000 for procuring a site and erecting buildings for a Provincial Normal and Model School. A site has been purchased, consisting of nearly eight acres of ground, beautifully situated in a central part of this city—composing an entire square, bounded on the North by Gerrard Street, on the East by Church Street, on the South by Gould Street, and on the West by Victoria Street. This valuable piece of ground has been purchased for the moderate sum of £4,500. This ground will afford facilities for a Botanical Garden—the proper accompaniment of the Normal School Lectures in Vegetable Physiology; also for Agricultural experiments on a limited scale—an appropriate illustration of the Normal School course of instruction in Agricultural Chemistry and Science.

The Council of Public Instruction has also advertised for Designs and Plans for the Normal and Model School Buildings, including Rooms for a School of Art and Design,—offering liberal premiums, so as to ensure the contributions of the highest architectural science and skill in the country. Several excellent and magnificent designs and plans have been presented; and the Council of Public Instruction has approved of one, chaste and simple in style, and most admirably arranged in its various apartments—designed (besides the rooms for School of Art and Design) to accommodate 200 student-teachers in the Normal School, and 600 pupils in the Model Schools—the schools of practice for the Normal School, and the model for the Common Schools of the Province.

Some persons have thoughtlessly, or for want of proper information, objected to the appropriation for the permanent establishment of this first College in Upper Canada for the education of the people at large. The following testimonies of neighbouring experience will, it is hoped, remove any remaining doubt from every candid mind on this subject.

The Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, in his last Annual Report, remarks as follows:—

"On a careful review and inspection of all that has been done within the last twelve years, to improve the Common Schools of Massachusetts, and of the special instrumentalities by which these improvements have been effected, I cannot refrain from assigning the first place, in adaptedness and in efficiency, to our State Normal Schools. Without these, all other labours and expenditures would have yielded but a meagre harvest of

\* The title of the work is as follows:—"School Architecture, and Contributions to the Improvement of school-houses in the United States, by H. Barnard, Commissioner of Public Schools in Rhode Island. New-York, Published by A. S. Barnes, & Co, 1847."