

From the REV. WILLIAM ORMISTON, D. D., Inspector of Grammar Schools, and late Mathematical Master, P. N. S., C. W.

HAMILTON, April 2, 1858.

I have been intimately acquainted with Mr. THOMAS G. CHESNUT for the last twelve years, and have had every opportunity of judging of his qualifications and ability as a Teacher. He has, at different times, pursued various branches of study, under my own tuition, both at *Victoria College*, and in the *Normal School*.

About ten years ago, he was teacher of the English branches, in the preparatory department of *Victoria College*, under my inspection—and his success, even then, was most marked and satisfactory. He afterwards taught a large Common School, in the Village of *Oshawa*, which I frequently visited—and here, too, his peculiar fitness for the duties of a teacher, and his faithfulness and untiring zeal in discharging them, secured for him alike, the respect of the parents and the gratitude of his pupils—as I have often heard them affirm. He attended the *Normal School* for the express purpose of studying the best modes of management and instruction, and few teachers, in my opinion, will be found who understand these subjects more thoroughly and practically.

His lengthened and varied experience as a teacher—his attendance at different schools, under many masters—and the time he has earnestly devoted to the study of Teaching as a science—eminently qualify him, in my estimation, successfully to manage or superintend any Common Schools.

He is, I understand, a Candidate for the Office of Superintendent of Common Schools, in the City of Toronto.* Should the Board employ him, they will secure the services of an able, earnest, and zealous officer, who is also a kind-hearted, conscientious, and Christian man.

W. ORMISTON.

From THOMAS J. ROBERTSON, M. A., Head Master Provincial Normal School,

NORMAL SCHOOL, April 21, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:

The gentleman to whom I first gave a recommendation for the City School Superintendentship having withdrawn, I am now at liberty to express my opinion in your favor in such terms as I think you deserve.

From my own experience as a practical teacher of over thirty years' standing, six of which were spent in actual inspection of Common Schools, where I had occasionally to organize schools numbering seven hundred children, I am well aware that none but a practical teacher can possibly discharge efficiently the duties of such an office. In this point of view, I conceive, from all I know of you, both as regards information and experience, that you are eminently qualified for the purpose.

But the nature of these duties, so commonly misunderstood in this country, induces me to speak more precisely. Educated myself under a celebrated German professor, under whose training I spent many years of my early life, both as pupil and teacher, I am impressed with a strong conviction of the necessity of a knowledge of system and skill in teaching on the part of a School Inspector, without which no such officer can possibly advise teachers on difficult points of organization, or examine the classes in all the different branches, with a view to the introduction of the best modes of teaching. I have

*This, and the following testimonials, were kindly sent Mr. Chesnut when he was a candidate for the office of *Superintendent of Schools* for the City of Toronto.