

only afford a means of gratifying intellectual tastes on the part of the cultured portion of the community, but they may be made local centres for continuing the education begun in the schools, and for spreading a taste for reading by means of their libraries and reading rooms, and thus confer a lasting benefit on the country.

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MR. RICHARD BAIGENT.

IT is our sad duty to chronicle the departure of one of our contributors who had long been a member of the teaching profession in this Province.

Mr. Richard Baigent was born on the 25th of January, 1830, in the city of Winchester, England. He received his education in Art at the English schools under the direction of his father, who taught for many years in Winchester College.

Mr. Baigent was most industrious and thorough in all his work, and early showed marked ability; he held various appointments while still quite a young man in Rossall Hall and Stoneyhurst and Winchester Colleges, which he resigned to come to this country in 1852. On reaching the city of Toronto he had little difficulty in finding some private pupils, and before he had been six months in Canada he was appointed Drawing Master in Upper Canada College. Shortly afterwards he was appointed to a similar position in the "Old Grammar School" (now the Collegiate Institute, Toronto), and both those positions he held until suddenly called away from his work here on the night of the 6th of May, 1890.

Besides many private pupils, Mr. Baigent had classes at Mechanics' Institutes, Art Schools, Private Schools, Loretto Abbey, the De La Salle School, and St. Michael's College.

In 1880 he received from the Governor-General the nomination of Asso-

ciate of the Royal Canadian Academy. In acknowledging this honour Mr. Baigent wrote:—"Please convey to His Excellency my thanks for his kind consideration and distinguished mark of favour. I am glad that His Excellency, while conferring dignity on Art, has also exalted the profession of teaching it. Looking back to the past eighteen years during which I have taught in Toronto, having pupils from all parts of Ontario, I have seen in the growth of Art taste such a change as falls to the lot of few to witness. In that growth picture-painting had no place, and even now, as you are well aware, the inducements are slight for the production of artists' best work. I am glad the dawn has come, and though younger men will reap I am glad I have been a pioneer."

For many years he was a member of the Ontario Society of Artists, and notwithstanding his duties as a teacher, found time to paint a number of pictures, among which were excellent studies of animals, flowers, and still life. His still life was especially admired. He had intended to have a sale of some sixty of his pictures on May 17th, and it is hoped that arrangements will shortly be completed to carry this into effect.

Mr. Baigent was a most devoted and successful teacher. Few possess, as he did, the happy faculty of interesting every pupil—especially those who thought they had no "talent" for drawing—or the power of helping those under his charge to feel that they wanted to do their best. He never roused the antagonism of his pupils, but it was not because he passed over faults, or neglected to reprove the idle.

The time was always too short for him, and he never was more happy than when surrounded by his students and devoting himself to their advancement.

In private life he was an estimable