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OBLIGATIONS OF EDUCATED MEN.

An Address delivered before the Senate and Students of Victoria College, May 2nd, 1848, by the Chief Superintendent of Schools for Upper Canada.

I am to address you on the OBLIGATIONS OF EDUCATED MEN. It is a subject which assumes the capacity of man for indefinite improvement—the adaptation of man for society—the relations of man to his fellow-man—the principles of social organization—the influence of one generation upon the character and destinies of another. It is a subject which involves the highest responsibility of individuals and classes, the deepest, widest interests of society at large.

Our first inquiry is,—on whom do these obligations rest? who are educated men? These are relative terms; they have been differently understood in different ages and countries; they are variously used in the same country, according as they are applied to different professions, trades and employments. Education in China and Persia means a different thing from education in England and America; the educated man of ancient Sparta was not the educated man of ancient Athens; nor is the educated man of the middle ages the educated man of modern ages. Nay, the history of government, of physical science, of the practical arts, shows that the educated man of even the last century is not the educated man of the present century. It would be interesting to inquire into the different and various applications of these terms in both ancient and modern ages, among Asiatics, Africans, Europeans, and Americans; but this would be on inquiry aside from our present design, and require time beyond the present hour. It is sufficient for our present purpose to remark, that by education we do not mean professional attainments; and by educated men we do not refer merely to gentlemen of the sacred, medical, legal, or military profession. By the term 'Education,' we mean the training and preparation requisite for the duties of life; and by the phrase 'educated man,' we mean, in the widest sense of the expression, every man who knows more than his next neighbour. He may be uneducated in comparison of those who know more than himself; but he is educated in respect to his less instructed neighbours. Thus the *triarii* of a CÆSAR'S legion would be but raw recruits in the army of a NAPOLEON or a WELLINGTON; and the venerable prelate of the middle ages could not obtain a Common School Master's certificate in the present age.