

Most assuredly any one who has an interest in the advance of our Dominion, any one who wishes to see Canada take a high place among the nations, will wish well to the institutions just mentioned. We live in stirring times, times in which even great nations must needs put forth strenuous exertions in order not to fall behind, and surely if our infant Dominion is ever to become great, we must tenderly foster everything which tends to make it great. We must wish well to its educational institutions, but we must do more, we must give them substantial support.

5. OPENING SCHOOL.

The first day of school is an important one to the teacher; for his success or failure depends upon the arrangements made that day. In order to have clear ideas of what is to be accomplished, to lay plans systematically, and to enter upon his work in earnest, it is necessary to obtain, if possible, some knowledge of the condition of the school before attempting to classify it. There are so many things that require immediate attention, so many important decisions to be made, all of which demand prompt and energetic action, that it is absolutely impossible to decide them all in the most desirable manner, without some forethought; consequently, it is highly important to the success of the teacher that he become acquainted beforehand with the wants of the school. If he neglect to do this, he is apt to make serious mistakes, and, not having any plan to work by, is wavering and doubtful how to proceed. This the children perceive, and form their opinion of the teacher accordingly. A prompt, energetic teacher, one who can decide a question in the best manner instantly and finally, cannot fail to secure the respect and confidence of children.

The first thing to be accomplished in opening school is to make a good impression. This can be done by talking in a friendly manner to the children; telling them some little story, or explaining to them the object of attending school. Nothing can prove more injurious to a school than for the teacher to assume a commanding, arbitrary manner, showing the rod to intimidate the children, and using threats to enforce obedience. The children immediately brace themselves up against such treatment, and secretly resolve to transgress the rules every chance they have; thus a spirit of rebellion is aroused in their young minds, which no after acts of the teacher can counteract.

I do not think it necessary to have many rules. A few strictly enforced are better than many violated daily. It is possible for a teacher to enforce rules in the spirit of kindness, and it is necessary for him to be firm and resolute, yet pleasant and cheerful. It is a poor plan to let the children do as they please the first week, and then undertake to control them. If the bars of order are once let down, under pretence of seeing what the children will do, and who are the leaders, it is not so easy to put them up again. The better plan is to insist upon having order, perfect order, the very first day; doing this, it will be comparatively easy to require it the whole term.

It is necessary for the teacher to enlist the affections of the children as soon as possible. When the scholars feel that their teacher takes an interest in them, and desires to please them, then they will take an interest in the school, love their teacher, and make progress in their studies. Respect, however, must precede love. Children generally form their opinion of the teacher the first day; if his manner that day is such as to secure their respect, then he will be likely to gain their love, and be successful in his labours.—

E. H. M.

III. Biographical Sketches.

1. THE REV. WM. RYERSON.

Died at his residence, in the Township of Onondaga, 13th Sept., the Revd. William Ryerson, aged 75 years.

The father of the Revd. William Ryerson, was born in the state of New Jersey, and was of Dutch extraction. He had four brothers, each of whom lived to an average age of one hundred years, and he himself died fifteen years ago aged ninety-four. He was an officer in the Prince of Wales' Volunteers during the American war; and at the close of the American Revolution he removed to New Brunswick, where he married and where his eldest children were born, and subsequently came to Upper Canada, and settled in the County of Norfolk in 1795, having obtained land there from the Government. Col. Ryerson had a large family of sons and daughters, several of whom have acquired celebrity in this country. The eldest, the Rev. George Ryerson, resides in Toronto, and is a Minister of the Catholic Apostolic Church, on Bay Street, in connection with the body founded by the celebrated Edward Irving. He has still

the appearance of a hale old gentleman although he must be more than eighty years old. Samuel, the second son, was a farmer in the County of Norfolk, and died many years ago. Elizabeth, who was married to the late Judge Mitchell, of Vittoria, is also dead. Mary was the wife of Col. Bostwick, of Port Stanley. The Rev. William Ryerson, was born in New Brunswick. The Rev. John Ryerson, now superannuated, has resided for some years in retirement in Brantford, and his son, the late Egerton Fisk Ryerson, Barrister-at-law and County Attorney of the County of Perth, is likewise dead. The Rev. Dr. Ryerson, of Toronto, is well and widely known; and the Rev. Edw. Ryerson, the youngest of the brothers, died long since. The Ryerson family may be considered an extraordinary one—certainly the most notable connected with the Wesleyan Methodist body in this country. All the brothers were Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, George, the eldest, alone excepted; and before and for several years after the time of the rebellion, they had more control over the religious body to which they ministered than all others beside. The system of itineracy which is peculiar to Methodism in its various phases brought the Ryersons into contact with the leading people of this Province from one extremity to the other. Victoria College, which may be said to have been founded by them, had no existence in their early days, nor had the University of Toronto. Indeed the country was wholly without the adequate agencies to afford anything more than the most elementary instruction to the young. But the Ryerson brothers achieved distinction in spite of all obstacles. Gifted with great natural powers and mingling with all classes in the discharge of their professional duties, they reached a degree of culture surprising under the circumstances. As popular preachers they have rarely been equalled, and probably never excelled in Upper Canada, and as a public writer and controversialist, the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, the Chief Superintendent of Education for Ontario, is pre-eminent. The deceased, however, was esteemed the most eloquent of all the brothers—was indeed regarded by the powerful and respectable religious body to which he belonged as the orator of the family. Those who knew him in his best days describe him as a man of extraordinary intellectual vigour and of great originality of thought and illustration. His style was fervid and impassioned, although not always elegant and correct, and his appeals to the sympathies of his auditors are said to have been most powerful and impressive. Years ago he retired from the active duties of the Ministry to his beautiful farm on the banks of the Grand River—one of the most charming spots in the County of Brant. There he occasionally ministered in a mission church hard by to a congregation consisting of his neighbors and immediate friends, and there, if you chanced to call upon him, he would entertain you for hours with anecdotes and events connected with the past history of the country. He was familiar with all the leading men of forty or fifty years ago—knew the Hagermans, the Joneses, the Baldwins, the Sullivans,—indeed every man of eminence in the country. His conversation was most instructive and interesting, and like that of Coleridge, seemed to be exhaustless. He was converted in 1815, entered the active service of the ministry about 1820. He was induced, some years ago to contest the West Riding of Brant in the Conservative interest, and succeeded in defeating Mr. Biggar, the Reform candidate. His Parliamentary career was brief, he entered the political arena too late in life to achieve distinction.—*Brant Expositor*.

2. T. C. STREET, Esq., M. P.

Mr. Street was the son of the late Samuel Street, Esq., and, at the time of his death, was 58 years of age. He had four sisters, one of whom is the wife of the Rev. Dr. Fuller, Archdeacon of Niagara. He was educated for the bar, though his property rendered it unnecessary for him to practise his profession. He was an active politician, early taking his place in the Conservative ranks, a position which he kept till the day of his death, and no man could be more true to his principles, while at the same time in dealing with his constituents, all parties will bear testimony to his practice of his principles, that he represented the whole of his constituency, and not merely that part which gave him the heartiest support. Mr. Street's first essay in political life was in 1851, when he was elected for the old Parliament of Canada. In 1854 he was defeated by Dr. Frazer, but in 1861 was returned by a considerable majority, and has continued as our representative from that time until the present, having been returned at the first elections under Confederation in 1867, by acclamation, and at the late general election getting a renewal of confidence by a very large majority. Mr. Street was most deservedly a popular man, for, upright in all his dealings, fearless in his integrity, one who was never known to descend to a mean action to further his own purposes, or allow his influence to be used for an unworthy object, he commanded the respect of every