

A ROYAL ORATOR.

Prince Leopold the Queen's youngest son, a short time ago, at a meeting held in London for the advancement of University Education, made an eloquent speech in support of that cause. Great Britain is now well supplied with educational machinery of all kinds. Her great universities of Oxford and Cambridge, with an annual income from their endowment rivaling if not exceeding that of many a colony, can bear comparison with the most venerable seats of learning in the world. In his address the prince spoke of these great schools of learning as the means of carrying the purest and most ennobling pleasure into homes where perhaps little other joy ever entered. His speech has been highly spoken of by the English press.

Even in our own country the benefits arising from the Colleges established and endowed by our people and by our fathers clearly manifest themselves. Many of those now holding responsible positions in the land owe their taste for learning and literature in great measure to the early stimulus derived from school teachers who received their training at these colleges. The longer we reflect upon the matter the more do we honour those of our own Church as well as those connected with other denominations who so liberally gave of their means for the endowment of Dalhousie College and similar institutions throughout this Province. Our young men can now at comparatively little cost secure in our own country a university training fitting them to occupy the foremost positions in the land, either in the Church or in the other learned professions. But as all men cannot avail themselves of a university education, it may be well to ask can

any thing be done to develop and extend the love of literature in our villages and rural districts. That our people are a reading people is evinced by the large circulation of newspapers among us. But there is a great scarcity of standard works in our midst. The truth is that such valuable books are too expensive to be within reach of most people. A vast benefit would be conferred upon the country at large by the establishment of public libraries to which all could have access by the payment of a reasonable fee. Our taxes are already too heavy to have this done at the public expense. It is moreover by private endowment that this work is usually accomplished. Which of our wealthy men will send his name and memory down to posterity in a halo of glory by endowing a free library, *pro bono publico*, either in Pictou or New Glasgow? Such a monument would be more enduring than bronze or sculptured marble. Generations yet unborn would arise and bless his memory, and his name would be embalmed in the fragrant remembrance of untold generations.

The grants of the Colonial Committee last year to the Presbyterian Church in Canada amounted to no less than £208,14 or \$10,000 of our currency. A large portion of this amount went towards the support of Queen's College Kingston and the Theological Hall at Halifax, and for the aid of Student Evangelists. The French Evangelization Board received £200 Stg. In addition to this the Colonial Committee aided the Presbytery of Pictou in connection with the Church of Scotland to the extent of £373, and also made a grant of £300 to the branch of the Church of Scotland in Ontario and Quebec, besides the grant to British Columbia, amounting to £872,114 making a total for the year 1877-78 of no less than \$17,850.