

ness of this stimulate us all nobly to fulfil to the utmost our noble trust. We are as the crew of a stately ship in mid-ocean. Each has his appointed work, and no one can forsake his post or neglect his duty, without retarding the voyage, and imperiling the hopes of its still distant haven. Amid the numerous schools and ancient seats of learning, and all the appliances of letters and science in the mother country, the fortunate possessor of a well-endowed college fellowship, or scholastic sinecure, may haply make its acquisition the passport to dignified idleness, like the luxurious cabin passenger in the ocean ship; but in this Canadian craft of ours there are scarcely hands enough to work the vessel; and since each must play his part heartily and willingly, each may be permitted to claim his share in the future triumph.

But while some of you are the representatives of the remotest of our clearings, in others I recognize those who are honored with the trust of Grammar schools and other seminaries in some of the chief centres of industrial enterprise; and who, I doubt not, find a pleasant relaxation in thus resorting to this educational metropolis, where already your pupils have distinguished themselves in a higher academic career, and made you sharers in their hard-won honors, by the evidence thereby afforded of your ability and zeal. The years in which I have been privileged to bear a part in the furtherance of education in Canada, brief though they have been, have already sufficed to indicate that rapid progress of our Grammar Schools, in the numbers of their pupils, that now annually offer themselves as candidates for the highest honors and prizes of the University. The period has altogether passed away when Upper Canada College was considered the sole avenue to University honors; and this not by any lowering of the efficiency of that valued provincial institution, but by the elevation of one after another of the Grammar Schools, under the guidance of zealous and efficient teachers, to a status which enables them to enter into honorable rivalry with it; and year by year to carry off an ever increasing number of the coveted awards.

And this recalls us to the all important truth that the school system is nothing without its staff of teachers. Whatever tends to secure for the teaching profession a fair share of the best talent in the country, be it a juster appreciation by parents, trustees, and Municipal Councils, of its important functions; the opening up of new avenues to professional distinction; or the most practical of all stimulants, an adequate increase in its emoluments; the result cannot fail to react beneficially on the system. Under the worst system an able zealous teacher will triumph; under the best one an idle and inefficient one will fail. And on this account I hail the reassembling of this convention with the highest hopes of benefit to result from it. All of you must be conscious of the influence of that isolation which is the inevitable accompaniment of your professional duties; and all, therefore, I conceive, must be glad to avail yourselves of this opportunity of comparing the results of your experience, and interchanging views on many practical questions of education. It