

and keen practical wisdom of a statesman and ruler. Not content merely to hold the reigns of power with even justice, and to preside with impartial dignity over the interests of the Dominion, or to live in semi-official and elegant seclusion among the people whose affairs he has been appointed to administer, he has at once applied himself to the important, and, to him, most pleasing duty of acquainting himself practically with those affairs and interests. He has sought to obtain his information in regard to important branches of social science in this new country, direct, and from the most reliable sources. By personal inquiry and an inspection of the material evidences of the agricultural, mechanical, industrial and educational progress, and Christian benevolent enterprise, which were presented to him, the Governor-General has endeavoured to obtain that practical information which will enable him to form a clear and definite judgment on the condition of the Province, an opinion on the practical character of its institutions—and an estimate of the number and efficacy of those great instruments of national progress and enlightenment, which the wisdom of Parliament, the sagacity of our statesmen, and the Christian philanthropy of our people, have put into operation.

Of the opinion which His Excellency has formed of our educational system and institutions he has been pleased to give utterance on several occasions. Of these, however, we will only select two—one in regard to his estimate of our system of popular education, and the other in regard to the educational institutions of Toronto. On the occasion of his visit to the Education Department of Ontario, and in the course of his remarks to the students of the Normal School, he said:—

“I had felt some anxiety and interest to become acquainted with what I had understood to be one of the best systems of education in the world, and I must now express my complete satisfaction with what I have witnessed.”

On leaving the Education Department, Lord Dufferin also

“Expressed the great pleasure he had experienced in the inspection of the establishment, which, he said, was equalled by few of its kind in Europe, and remarked, that its founders had built themselves a lasting monument.”

In regard to the educational institutions of Toronto, His Excellency, on leaving Toronto, directed Col. Fletcher, his Secretary, to address a formal letter of acknowledgment to His Worship the Mayor of the city. In that letter Col. Fletcher says:—

“Although the Governor-General's stay has been far shorter than he could have wished, His Excellency has had an opportunity of visiting some of the principal institutions of the town, and he cannot adequately describe the satisfaction he has experienced in observing the admirable footing upon which they are established. Those devoted to educational purposes have especially attracted his attention, as being equal, if not superior, to any with which he is acquainted.”

Apart from the zest and novelty of such a visit and inquiry in a new country (which are, no doubt, congenial to Lord Dufferin's tastes), we think we have indicated some at least of the motives which have induced His Excellency (as did Lord Elgin) to devote so much care and attention to acquire the valuable information which he has obtained in his visits to the western parts of this Province.

There are also abundant evidences in Lord Dufferin's impromptu and yet studied utterances, that he has not undertaken his important duties without, at least, an extensive preliminary study of

our past history, and a tolerably correct estimate of the resources and capabilities of the Provinces in the Dominion. Did our space permit, we would gladly make many extracts from those speeches, but the nature of this periodical compels us to restrict ourselves to a record of His Excellency's visits to the educational institutions. This, from the great interest of the subject, we have made as full as possible; and, in doing so, we have availed ourselves of the admirable reports of those visits published in the *Globe*, *Mail* and *Leader* newspapers.

1. VISIT TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR ONTARIO.

LORD DUFFERIN ON CANADIAN EDUCATION.

Their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Countess of Dufferin, accompanied by Col. Fletcher, visited the Education Department on the 16th inst. The vice-regal party was received at the principal entrance by the Chief Superintendent of Education, Rev. Dr. Ryerson; the Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Hodgins; Very Rev. Dean Grasett, Chairman; and the following additional members of the Council of Public Instruction:—The Most Rev. the Archbishop of Toronto, Rev. Dr. McCaul, Rev. Dr. Jennings, Hon. William McMaster. The following gentlemen were also in attendance and were presented to their Excellencies in the vestibule:—The Hon. Attorney-General Crooks, the Right Reverend the Bishop of London, the Very Reverend Vicar-General Jamot, the Rev. Mr. Crinan, of Stratford, and the Rev. Dr. Davies, Principal of the Normal School. Their Excellencies were then conducted into the Theatre, in the body of which the children of the Model School were assembled, the pupils of the Normal School occupying the gallery. Over the entrance to the Theatre were the words “God save the Queen,” enclosed in a border of coloured maple leaves, the work of Dr. May, Chief of the Depository Department, aided by some young ladies from the Model School. On the front of the gallery, facing the stage, was the Governor-General's motto “*Per vias rectas*,” in green maple leaves. Over this was the word “Welcome,” in autumn maple leaves, and surmounting all was the crown in flowers. The decorations inside the Theatre were the work of the young ladies of the Normal School, under the direction of William Armstrong, Esq., C.E., Drawing Master.

On the entrance of the Governor-General, all the pupils rose and, led by Mr. Sefton, sang the National Anthem, which, in common with the subsequent selections, was performed in a manner which did great credit to the ability of the teacher of music, and to the aptitude of the scholars. The Chief Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and members of the Council then descended to the foot of the dais, and the Dean of Toronto read the following address:—

“To his Excellency the Right Honourable the Earl of Dufferin, K. P., K.C.B., Governor-General of Canada, &c. &c. &c.

“*May it please your Excellency;*

“The Council of Public Instruction for the Province of Ontario, in unison with all classes of our fellow subjects, most cordially welcome you and the Countess of Dufferin to the country first selected as a home by the United Empire Loyalists of America, and to this seat of our educational operations. We welcome your Excellency not only as the honoured representative of our beloved Sovereign, as an experienced statesman and accomplished scholar, but as a known and earnest labourer in the cause of national education.

“To us as a body, since 1846, has been assigned the task of establishing the Normal and Model Schools for the training of teachers, framing the regulations for the management of the Public and High Schools, selecting the text books and books for prizes, and free libraries, while one of our number has been appointed to prepare and administer the school law and regulations. It has been our aim to devise and develop a system of sound universal education on Christian principles, imbued with a spirit of affectionate loyalty to the Throne and attachment to the unity of the Empire. In this great work we have been favoured with the protection and support of successive Administrations and Parliaments, without respect to party, and with the friendly co-operation of all religious persuasions. The schools under the Education Department have increased to the number of 4,703, and the pupils in them to the number of 454,616; the school accommodations, character and qualifications of teachers, the methods and efficiency of teaching, have advanced in proportion to the increase of schools and pupils, and the amount provided last year for the support of the schools, almost