

PREFATORY NOTE.

From an intimate personal knowledge of the state and progress of Education in Upper Canada from the earliest times, I am satisfied that the contents of these volumes will prove both valuable and interesting.

The papers selected for publication are the most noted of those which are contained in the Documentary History, so that they can be easily found in a condensed form, when required, instead of having to search for them in the successive volumes of that History.

Among the most interesting of these documents are the originals of the Grammar and Common School Acts of 1807-1816 and 1820, as well as those of 1841 and 1843, passed after the Union of the Provinces of 1840.

There are also several special papers relating to the disposition of the Imperial Land Grant of 1797, out of which grew a prolonged discussion on the University question, as a proportion of that grant was designed for a University.

During that discussion, and, as illustrative of the views of many of those who took part in it, drafts of University Bills to the number of sixteen were prepared, from 1832 to 1853, but only four of them passed the Legislature.

In a succeeding volume there will be inserted the more important documents issued by the Reverend Doctor Ryerson during his long successful administration of the Education Department, as well as his official Annual Reports to the Government.

One portion will be devoted to the insertion of a number of special Addresses on Educational and Literary subjects, at University Convocations, at Provincial School Conventions, and in connection with the History and Progress of our Educational System, which will prove highly interesting and instructive.

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