

dent in character and jealous of their rights. No government is more independent than our own. No word of authority even from our Queen, much as we love her, can affect us here. Think you that the free education distributed throughout our land has had nothing to do with this? I am proud to say that books under the School System can be obtained lower than the cost price in any other country. In the superiority of teachers, in the numbers of school-going children, and in funds, we are greatly in advance of what we were some years ago. All we have to do is to be faithful in this great work, and when we have done our part and are gone, our memories will not be forgotten, we will live in the hearts of those who come after us. After complimenting the excellent singing of the children, the Rev. gentleman read some stanzas breathing of the patriotism which everywhere animates the hearts of Canadians, and took his seat amid much applause.

The band again favoured the meeting, followed by the children in "a hymn for the occasion."

ROBT. SIMPSON, ESQ.—As Mayor of the corporation and an old resident of the Town of Barrie, I have always taken a deep interest in the prosperity of the place. I have not, it is true, made education my care, as circumstances and my own learning have been more towards matters of a municipal nature. Yet I have observed with pleasure the great progress which education has made amongst us, and look forward with the rest of my fellow-citizens to further advances still. I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without stating that the prosperous state of our school affairs, both in the Public School and in the Grammar School, has been owing in a very great measure to the energy and warm interest taken in them by the chairman, Mr. Wm. Boys. I can scarcely trust the accuracy of my memory when I look back to the past from the present prosperity of Barrie. Its rapid increase in trade, manufacture and wealth has been very great, and I trust and hope there is a brighter future still in store for us.

REV. DEAN O'CONNOR said:—The occasion which brought them together was one in which all who took an interest in education should rejoice and take part. The subject of education is of the most vital importance, since few questions affect so directly the welfare and interests of the people, more especially in this country, where the well-being and permanence of our institutions depend so much on the proper training of youth. Though we are not yet ranked as a distinct nation, however we enjoy a freedom that is even greater than some countries that are styled kingdoms or republics. If we wish to preserve that privilege which we possess, of making our own laws and shaping the destiny of this country, we must see to the youth of the country and have them properly educated, so that they may, in their own times, fitly occupy the positions they will be required to fill. So important is the proper training of youth that we may say with Washington, it is the "pillar of society," since it and it alone forms a nation, maintains its splendour, and prevents decay. Any country that pays particular attention to its educational institutions may be regarded as on the high-road to prosperity and enlightenment. But intellectual culture alone is not sufficient to perpetuate the civilization of a nation. The moral as well as the mental faculties require cultivation, in order to have the education of the human mind complete. It is not one portion of man, but the whole—the physical, the intellectual and moral being, that must be cultivated. Neglect any one part of man's nature, and you at once disturb the equilibrium of the whole and produce disorder: educate the intellectual at the expense of the moral and religious feelings, and you but fearfully increase a man's powers to effect evil. "Talent if divorced from rectitude," says Channing, "will prove more of a demon than a god." The human mind must consequently be thoroughly educated, if you wish to have good citizens and practical Christians. To obtain this complete moral training, the religious element should be the parent stem of all education. This is the reason why the Church to which I belong has always regarded moral training superior to intellectual culture, and on that account, insists on providing the youth of her fold with separate schools wherever practicable, that they may receive in them that religious training which she deems so requisite. Thanks to the liberality of the Government of this country, our separate schools are not only permitted, but are also supported by the funds of the Government. All should unite in endeavouring to provide means for giving the youth of every denomination a thorough and practical education that will fit them for the proper discharge of the duties they will afterwards be called upon to fulfil both as citizens and Christians. As we all know, youth is called the seed time of life, and experience as well as reason proves that the same law holds good in mental as well as in material husbandry: "what you sow ye shall reap." Consequently the proper time to inculcate these salutary principles of morality is in youth, when the mind is simple and docile, and the heart may be easily cast into any mould. The first impressions are the last forgotten. Every friend

of education should encourage whatever tends to elevate the human mind, and thus promote the welfare of the country. The people of Barrie especially should feel proud that they are erecting a building that will be an ornament to the town as well as a seat of learning for the youth of the place.—(Cheers.)

THE REV. W. MCKEE, B.A., Inspector of Public Schools, South Simcoe.—I assure you it gives me much pleasure to be present on this occasion, and to witness the proceedings of this afternoon, and more especially to have seen the first stone of the new Public School-house in this town laid to-day, under so favourable auspices, by the eminent father himself of the excellent Common School System of this Province—a system which, in the opinion of the best judges, is not surpassed, at least as regards its machinery and its essential and most important features, by any other country either in the old world or the new. It is a system which, as some of the previous speakers have eloquently observed, stands as a monument of the labours of its illustrious founder—a monument more lasting than brass, and which shall endure when marble shall have crumbled to atoms.—(Applause.) I am happy to learn, by what has fallen from the Mayor and some other speakers, that the ability and services of our worthy chairman are so highly appreciated by his fellow-members of the Board of Public School Trustees. I can assure you that in the Board of County Examiners they are equally valued; and, I am glad to have this opportunity of stating publicly before the Warden and other members of the County Council, what I have more than once mentioned to the Rev. Dean O'Connor and others, namely, that such is the great capacity for business possessed by Mr. Boys, and so essentially necessary is his experience and service found to be in conducting the proceedings of the Board, that I do not know how we could possibly get on without him; and I am persuaded the other members will unite with me in testifying that as our Secretary he is emphatically the right man in the right place.—(Applause.) And now I must congratulate the Public School Trustees and the good people of Barrie on the enterprise of which we have seen the commencement to-day; and I would venture to express the hope that when this new school-house is successfully finished and completely furnished and equipped, it will be an honour to the Board of Trustees and to the people of this place, and will form a model of what a Public School-house should be, in such a rising and prosperous town as this. I have long entertained the conviction that the men who, in a new country like this, plant or spread schools, and thus become instrumental in causing the advantages and blessings of education to be conveyed to every township, to every school section, to every family and to every child and youth in the land, are the real patriots of their country—are the benefactors of their kindred and race. They are doers in a work the benefits and good effects of which shall follow them—the happy and gratifying fruits of which shall be reaped and enjoyed not by themselves directly, but by their families and children, and their children's children after them. These are the men whom coming generations will rise up and call blessed. It is the men of this stamp who make any country great and free and prosperous and happy. They are the real source of progress and of Christian civilization in any country.—(Great applause.) And I would say to the Board of Public School Trustees, and to the people of Barrie, that in erecting a good school-house here, you may be doing a thing the beneficial influence of which may extend farther than you first designed or contemplated. I am stating a well-known fact when I say that many of the leading and influential men belonging to the different townships in the county are frequent visitors in your town—it being the seat of law courts, and the place where the County Council hold their regular meetings—and if these visitors see in your town a first-rate school-house, thoroughly furnished and equipped in every respect, the reflex influence must be salutary and beneficial, and, imitating your example, they will naturally be led to seek the establishment of good or superior school-houses in their respective localities. And I can testify that there is great need of something being done for the purpose of securing the erection of a better class of school-houses in most parts of the county. Having some months ago completed my first tour as Public School Inspector, I am in a position to state that many of the school-houses throughout South Simcoe are of a very inferior description—being rude log buildings, old and dilapidated, with seats and desks of a corresponding character, often situated on the edge of the road, and without wells, offices, playgrounds or fencing of any kind. I may mention, also, that in several essential particulars, most of the frame school-houses which have replaced the primitive log structures, are not at all what they should be, nor what you would naturally be led to expect, from the great wealth and agricultural prosperity of the larger portion of the Riding; so that it is quite certain and plain the requirements of the New School Law have not come into force at all too soon, so far as the interests and advancement of education in this part of Ontario are concerned. Indeed truth obliges me to state that in the