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## An Historical Retrospect

*On the Unveiling of his Statue on the Queen's Birthday, 1889.*

By J. GEORGE HODGINS.

To day will long be memorable in the educational history of Ontario—for to-day has been unveiled the first statue ever erected in this Province to one of its own sons.

It will be still more memorable from the fact that that special subject of public interest and national concern which has been signally honoured to-day, is the pre-eminently important one of popular education. These two facts combined give to the celebration and pleasant incidents of the day a peculiar significance, and a special interest.

One of the first indications of a growing national life and a patriotic national spirit is the erection of statues to noble sons who have rendered such valuable services to the State as are recognized and honoured here to-day.

It is a most hopeful sign, as well as an assuring and happy augury for the future of a country, when its patriotism takes the grateful and graceful form of doing honour to those who have aided in laying the foundation of its future greatness and prosperity. This, we all rejoice, has been done by Ontario to-day in the unveiling of the statue of the distinguished Founder of her educational system. She has reared to-day to one of the sons of her soil a noble monument, expressive of grateful acknowledgment for services of the greatest importance and value to her and to the thousands of her sons and daughters yet unborn.

The erection of this statue emphasizes in a striking manner a notable fact, which the mature judgment of the nineteenth century has everywhere endorsed, that :

“Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war.”