

no danger of this nature can possibly arise; for no enthusiasm in their study can change a modern christian into an ancient heathen. But to give the mind its best and fittest training, the study of the sciences should be prosecuted. Even light literature should not be neglected. The writings of Dickens and Thackeray should be familiar to every teacher. In conclusion, he urged on teachers the necessity of having some model, not that he should follow it mechanically, but that he should form his character by it. Dr. Arnold was a safe model. No man had done more for the schools of England than he had done. His scholars made a revolution wherever they went. The time might come when his noble fragment of Roman history would be consigned to the dark and dusty alcove of some library, but England could never forget what he accomplished for her schools. Mr. Mills spoke upwards of an hour, and concluded a masterly and philosophical speech in the midst of loud and prolonged cheering.—*Canadian Home Journal.*

2. COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOLS.

The meeting of teachers which was held in the Central School on Saturday last, as appears from our report of their discussions published yesterday, had under consideration a question of very great importance to the educational interests of the Province, viz:—Ought attendance at school to be made compulsory? The question is one which has excited a good deal of attention in times past.

When some years ago the Rev. Dr. Ryerson held a series of conventions throughout Upper Canada with a view to amendments which he proposed to make, specially to the Grammar School Law, the subject of compulsory attendance of pupils at school, or what we take to be the same thing, compulsory education came in for a share of attention. In nearly every case, if we mistake not, the decision of the meetings was in favor of such an amendment to the laws as would make attendance of the public schools compulsory; and the teachers of this county appear to have arrived at a similar decision. No attempt has ever been made to engraft upon the School Law a provision of this kind, and it is perhaps doubtful whether the public mind is educated up to the point which would enable such an attempt to be successfully made. But there is no disputing the fact that the school system of Canada without such provision only partially fulfils the objects contemplated, or covers the ground upon which it can ever be justified.

Considered as an abstract proposition the school system is a violation of the voluntary principle which the people of Canada long struggled for, and at last affirmed by a distinct enactment. As a mere matter of abstract right the state is no more justified in undertaking the secular than it is the religious education of the people. But the former is done upon the ground that the entire community is interested in, and benefited by, the education of each member of that community. This is a proposition which cannot for a moment be disputed. It is abundantly sustained by everyday experience, and by the criminal statistics of our jails and Penitentiaries. Ignorance and crime or poverty almost invariably go hand in hand; and that people which best provides for the education, not simply of a portion but of the entire mass of the community, best ensures its moral well being. It is upon this ground that the school system which taxes the entire community for the education of the children of that community is justified. But the misfortune is that the condition is not, under our present system, fulfilled. The truth is that in our cities and towns especially, that very class which it is most desirable, in view of the general principle, to educate are not educated at all. And it is for this reason that an amendment to the school law, which would ensure the education of all, is imperatively required. That amendment must be in the shape of compulsory education. It is due to those who are taxed for the maintenance of a school system, whether they avail themselves of it or not, that this should be done. And for that reason we view with satisfaction the growing public sentiment in favor of this much needed reform.—*Hamilton Spectator.* See pages 153 and 159.

V. Biographical Sketches.

No. 54.—THOMAS SANDILANDS, ESQ.

We sincerely and deeply regret to announce the decease of Thomas Sandilands, Esq., one of the earliest, the oldest, and most justly esteemed inhabitants of Guelph. Mr. Sandilands was born, we believe, in Glasgow, in 1795. Having emigrated to America, he resided for a short time in the United States and subsequently in Toronto, where some of his children died. He became a resident of Guelph in 1832, commenced and carried on business successfully as a storekeeper for over twenty years, and not many years after his

settlement he was appointed local agent of the Gore Bank—the first Bank agency established in Guelph.—*Guelph Herald.*

No. 55.—AGGUILAHNESS, OR JOSEPH MARTIN.

Another of the old Indian warriors has gone to his rest, Agguilahness (or Joseph Martin, as he was called in English), was a sturdy war-chief of the Mohawk tribe, who like all his race, was loyal and devoted to the British throne. He was born at the Bay of Quinté in the year 1792. When General Brock came out to this Province to take command of the few troops who were here to defend the colony in 1812, Agguilahness was at Quebec, and having then heard from the General that war was broken out between England and the United States, he hurried back like a true warrior to join his brother chiefs, in rousing up the red men to fight for Britain. Agguilahness was then a young man, robust and active. His rifle might be heard at Queenston, (where the gallant Brock fell,) at Beaver Dam, Cross Road, Chippeway, and Black Creek. He was also with the Indians close to Fort Erie, when the Americans evacuated it, and he witnessed the explosion by which several British soldiers were unfortunately killed. When the rebellion broke out in 1837, the Indians of the Six Nations were again very active in aiding the loyalists. Agguilahness died humbly, expressing his belief in Jesus Christ as the only and all sufficient Saviour, and "fell asleep in him," having a "joy and peace" in that belief. His body was interred in the cemetery at the old Mohawk church, and the funeral was attended by the Revs. Nelles, Elliot, and Roberts, (Indian Missionaries,) and a large number of his people.—*Brantford Courier.*

No. 56.—SIR GEORGE BROWN, K.C.B.

The *Hibernian* announces the death of this distinguished general. He was born in August, 1790, at Linkwood, near Elgin, Scotland. He entered the army, as ensign in the 43rd regiment, in 1806, and as lieutenant in the same regiment, was present at the bombardment of Copenhagen. He served in the peninsular war, from its beginning, in 1808, to its close, in 1814. At the battle of Talavera he was severely wounded, and at Badajoz was one of the forlorn hope. He was appointed captain in the 85th regiment in 1811; in 1814, was made a lieutenant-colonel, in which position he came to America during the troublous times of that period, and was present at the capture of Washington. Step by step he advanced upward, until in 1851 he became a lieutenant-general. During the Crimean campaign he led the English light division at the battle of the Alma and Inkermann, and took the chief command of the storming party in the first unsuccessful attempt on the Redan. In 1855 he was created a K.C.B., and, in the following year, gazetted "General in the army, for distinguished service in the field." He died at a good age, full of honors, and high in the esteem of his fellow countrymen.—*Leader.*

No. 57.—PROFESSOR AYTOUN.

William Edmondstone Aytoun, Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the University of Edinburgh, and a very eminent Scottish author, died on the 4th of August. He was born at Edinburgh in 1813, was educated at the University of which he afterwards became Professor, and in 1831 gained a prize for the first poem, "Judith." He was called to the Scottish bar in 1840, and in 1845 was appointed by the Crown to the chair of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in Edinburgh University. In 1852 he was appointed Sheriff of Orkney and Shetland by the Derby Government, as a mark of their consideration for his zealous support to the Conservative cause. It was his literary career which gave him celebrity. He was a contributor for thirty years to *Blackwood* and other magazines, under the *nom de plume*, partly, of Augustus Dunshunner. His ballads, published in connection with Theodore Martin's as the "Bon Gaultier" ballads, gave him a wide fame, aside from his magazine reputation. He published "The Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers," first printed in a collected form in 1858, and now in their 17th edition; "Firmilian: A Spasmodic Tragedy," 1854, an amusing and effective burlesque of the sensational drama; "Bothwell: A Poem," giving an episode in the history of Mary, Queen of Scots, published in 1856; an edition of "The Ballads of Scotland," 1857; lectures on "Poetry and Dramatic Literature," delivered in London in 1853; translations of "Poems and Ballads of Goethe," a joint production with Mr. Theodore Martin; "Norman Sinclair," a novel, first published from *Blackwood's* pages in 1861. He was also the author of some amusing papers, of which the dry and sly humour, perhaps, was best appreciated by his own countrymen, entitled "The Glenmutchkin Railway," a burlesque of the railway mania; "How I stood for the Dreepdaily Burghs," a farcical sketch of electioneering, &c. Professor Aytoun was a D.C.L. of Oxford, and held other academic honours.