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BENJAMIN CRONYN, ESQ.,

BARRISTER, &C., &C., LATE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
LONDON.

Few young men of the Province have taken a more active interest in all that tends to the improvement of society and the diffusion of knowledge in their respective neighborhoods, than has the subject of the present sketch, Benjamin Cronyn, Esq., Barrister, of the city of London, and for the last three years Chairman of the Board of Education. Mr. Cronyn is the fourth son of the late esteemed and lamented Dr. Cronyn, Bishop of Huron, and having been born in 1840, he is only in his thirty-ninth year. He was principally educated under the eye of his father, and in the Grammar School of London, of which the Rev. B. Bayley, A.B., was Head Master. He entered Osgoode Hall as a law student in 1859, studied in the office of Mr. Beecher of London, and in that of the Hon. Edward Blake, became Attorney in 1865, and was called to the Bar in 1867.

Mr. Cronyn has taken an active interest in every movement that has had for its object the improvement and progress of the city, whether as regards its moral, material, charitable, or educational interests. He has already filled some of the highest civic offices in the gift of the people, and his administration has in every instance been characterised by energy, sound judgment and discriminating economy. For four years, from 1872 to 1875 inclusive, he was a member of the City Council, and for the last two he filled with dignity and marked ability the office of Mayor, and gave in his administration of civic affairs the highest satisfaction, both

to the body over which he presided, and to the municipality generally. If his popularity in office may be taken as the measure of his administrative talent, then Mr. Cronyn may be fairly held as a young man of great promise, and one who will yet, if spared, be called to serve his country in even higher walks than any of those which his fellow-citizens have hitherto bestowed upon him.

But it is rather in the part he has played in connection with the education of his native city that we desire to notice his public career. Upon retiring from the City Council, he accepted from the Board of Aldermen the office of a High School Trustee, and was at once appointed Chairman of the united Board of Education for the city. His zeal for the good of the public, his activity

and breadth of views led him at once to the consideration and adoption of such measures as would secure the improvement of both the High and Public Schools of the city. Though the London Grammar School is one of the oldest institutions of the kind in the Province, and though it has been under that experienced teacher and accomplished scholar, the Rev. Benjamin Bayly, A.B., T.C.D., for the last thirty-seven years, yet it never enjoyed what may be called a permanent home until Mr. Cronyn and a few enterprising gentlemen, members of the same Board, took up the question with determination, and by tact and judgment carried it to a successful issue.

The Grammar School Block, as it has been called, comprised a square of five acres in the very centre of the city. By former action of the Board, three-fourths of this block had been leased for

a long term of years, and is now covered with substantial brick buildings. The city, with the sanction of the Dominion Government, granted a beautiful site for a new High School on the old military reserve, and the Ontario Government permitted the sale of that portion of the old Grammar School block still remaining in the hands of the Board, and by these two circumstances combined, the trustees were enabled to erect and equip one of the finest High Schools to be found in the Province of Ontario, and all this without any expense to the city for the erection of the building. Perhaps ere this reaches the readers of the JOURNAL, the institution will have taken rank as a Collegiate Institute, as every particular required for claiming this distinction as prescribed by the laws and regulations has been fully complied with, and the application made to His Honor the Lieutenant.

Governor for the granting of this title, and the advantages that accompany the distinction.

While giving due credit to all the members of the Board of Education who joined heartily in bringing this great work to a happy and successful completion, we believe that not one of his colleagues will hesitate to acknowledge that Mr. Cronyn has been the life and soul of the Board in every effort put forth to accomplish the object aimed at. A few months before he retired from office, Mr. Cronyn had the pleasure of seeing the High School, with his old and esteemed teacher, Mr. Bayly, at the head of it, removed to the new building. Since this notice was written, Mr. Bayly has departed this life full of years and honors, and deeply regretted by the whole community. We hope a useful and honor-

