

8. EDUCATION IN THE RED RIVER COLONY.

In a letter published in the *Nor'-Wester*, by Mr. James Ross, we take the following information respecting the educational status of the Colony :

The Red River Settlement is pretty equally divided between Protestants and Catholics—there being in round numbers, about 4,000 of each. Happily, there is perfect harmony and good feeling between both sections. We are so situated that there is no need to intermingle for educational purposes, and thus the lamentable feuds, which mar the usefulness of educational systems in other countries, have not germinated here as yet. In the Protestant section, there are six or seven day schools, at which both boys and girls attend. Were all the children to attend, it could be shown that there are not schools enough ; and the fact that there is abundance of accommodation proves that the attendance is not as general as it should be. The once-famous "Red River Academy" has all but expired. It was really a credit to the country, and, though styled "Academy," would have compared favourably with many so-called "Colleges." Mr. Isbister, of London, whose attainments are admitted to be of a high order, was trained in this Academy. One who went directly to the University of Cambridge, took a scholarship at his first examination, held it during his Collegiate course, and graduated creditably. A second, who followed him a year later, ranked high in the examinations, but was prevented by illness from completing his course. A third went directly from it to the University of Toronto, took a scholarship at the first examination, took two the second year, held them for three years, and at the final examination obtained, besides a degree of B.A., two gold medals and one silver one. These are specimens of the students trained at the Red River Academy. Their success abroad must be attributed to previous training as well as to natural talent.

IV. Biographical Sketches.

No. 6. HENRY FISHER, ESQ.

(Late Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick.)

Death has again been in our midst, and on this occasion he has claimed a valuable victim. After an illness of nearly six weeks, which terminated in an abscess of the lungs, Henry Fisher, Esq., Chief Superintendent of Schools for the Province, and brother to the Attorney General, expired at his residence in this City on Wednesday morning, in the 48th year of his age. Mr. Fisher was a man of christian character, fine talents, and a most kind and amiable disposition. His friendships were strong and permanent, and his memory and judgment were seldom if ever defective.—A harsh word never escaped him, and well can we bear witness to the fact, that while his information was truly extensive, he never wished to remain oblivious of the faults or failings of those with whom he came in contact. Nearly two years ago the government appointed him Chief Superintendent of Schools, and from that period till the very day upon which he took his last illness at a Teacher's meeting in this city, he never ceased to prosecute his arduous and important duties with a zeal which scarcely knew any bounds, and which in conjunction with a rather weakly constitution, finally led to his premature dissolution. As a public speaker and writer Mr. Fisher had but few equals in the Province ; and these gifts, with his untiring application and sound judgment rendered him a most valuable acquisition to the important office for which he had been selected. Instant in season and out of season at his post, he visited and lectured at almost every important station of the Province, during the short period of his official life, making friends among all classes of the community, and especially securing the good will and co-operation of that important one over which he had been appointed to preside. His loss, as a public man will long be felt throughout the country, while to those who knew him best, that loss will be felt most severely. Peace to his ashes ! a kinder man or a more attached and sincere friend we have never known. He has left a widow, two sons, and a large circle of brothers, sisters, and more distant relatives, to lament his dissolution, yet to acknowledge that their loss is his everlasting gain.—*New Brunswick Reporter*, Feb. 3rd.

No. 7. THE HON. JAMES CROOKS. M.L.C.

This gentleman died early on 2nd March, at his residence, in Flamboro' West, from the effects of a paralytic stroke. He has gone from amongst us, perhaps not so full of honor as of years, but highly esteemed and respected by all, for his manly, straightforward and honorable conduct through life. Mr. Crooks had long been prominent as a public man. He was a resident of Niagara

from about the year 1794, having emigrated from Scotland quite young. He was in business many years in this place as a merchant, and we recollect his remarking once to us that he sent the first load of wheat and the first load of flour ever shipped from Upper Canada to Montreal. It was shipped from Niagara. Mr. Crooks represented Niagara in the Upper Canada Parliament, before the war of 1812. During the war he was captain of a company of the 1st Lincoln Militia, and fought gallantly at Queenston and other places. He was subsequently raised to the Legislative Council, of which body he was a member for upwards of twenty-five years. He was thoroughly independent in his views, and favored neither party in the Legislature, but was generally found supporting all good measures. The Hon. Mr. Crooks established the first paper mill in this part of the Province, and carried it on successfully for many years ; but he grew tired of business as old age wore on, and finally abandoned the paper-making business. The facilities at his command were limited, because the demand for paper was light, yet the Flamboro' paper mill supplied the wants of the entire community then ; now the case is different, and such an establishment would do but little in keeping up a supply for the newspaper offices within range of the old mill. Having held his seat by nomination from the Crown, the death of Mr. Crooks will not cause an election. He was in the 82nd year of his age, having been born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, in 1778 ; his demise will be deeply and sincerely regretted by all who knew him.—*Hamilton Spectator and Niagara Mail*.

No. 8. GEORGE BROUSE, ESQ.

Died at his residence Iroquois, on Sunday the 12th Feb., George Brouse, Esq., formerly M.P.P. for the County of Dundas, in the 71st year of his age. Over seventy years since, when the forest covered the bank of the St. Lawrence, the howl of the wolf, the bark of the fox, the heavy tread of the prowling bear, were matters of every day occurrence, was the subject of this notice born, on the very spot of ground where now stands the residence in which he breathed his last. He was the oldest merchant of Matilda ; one of the oldest Post Masters in the Province ;—was once a member of the Legislature of Upper Canada ; was one of the most active and useful men in the County ; the father of a large family, by whom he was fondly loved,—a kind neighbour, and a steadfast believer in the verities of the Christian Religion. So pass away the old men of our country. May the young men emulate their virtues.—*Brockville Recorder*.

No. 9. SIR WILLIAM NAPIER, K.C.B.

This gallant officer, whose death is announced, was born at Castletown, Ireland, in 1785. His father was Colonel the Honorable George Napier, and his mother the celebrated Sarah Lennox, daughter of the second Duke of Richmond. When but fifteen years of age, Sir William entered the army. He served at the siege of Copenhagen, followed Sir John Moore to the Spanish Peninsula in 1808, and was in command of the Forty-third Regiment at Salamanca, Nivelle, and Nive. The wounds which he received in the battles in which he was engaged, were emphatic proof of his daring and bravery as a soldier. For six years, from 1842 to 1848, when he was created a Military Knight, and became Colonel of the Twenty-seventh Regiment, Sir William was Governor of Guernsey. In 1851, he was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant-General. The intervals of leisure which he enjoyed were devoted to recording the history of the wars in which he had taken part. To his pen we are indebted for the "History of the War in the Peninsula and in the South of France, from the year 1807 to 1814." Against the current of popular and political prejudice, the work forced its way by its intrinsic fascinations, to the summit of public favour. The truth is, besides the genuine nationality of its object and its tone, there was a dignity in the treatment and a living verity in the descriptions, which led the mind unresistingly captive. Never before had such scenes been portrayed, nor with such wonderful coloring. The completion of this extraordinary work not only established Colonel Napier's fame as an author, but contributed probably, in conjunction with the brilliant services of his brother Charles, to improve even his professional position. He had indeed earned in the fair discharge of military duty all the promotion which now overtook him, for he had borne active and distinguished part throughout a protracted war, and was justly entitled to the gradual advancement reserved for its survivors. Sir William's devotion to the reputation of his brother is almost without a parallel. On this point he would brook no question at any hands. In the Ionian Islands, in India, in the command of a home district—wherever Sir Charles Napier was stationed, and whatever he did, his acts were right. The historian of the war in