

A TRIBUTE.

There are some lives so rich in their influence and the legacy they leave us that we are thankful that they lived; and we go on our way strengthened to do and to endure because of the bright example which they gave. Such a one was that of I. Allen Jack, the late recorder of the city of St. John, who passed into rest on Palm Sunday, April 5th, after an illness of ten years, during nearly eight of which he had never left his room. Possessed of rare intellectual gifts, he had also that faculty of clear perception which enabled him to grasp intuitively the bearings of every question he considered. The meanings of Nature and literature were revealed to him as to few. For the one he had that loving and reverent admiration, that sympathy with and nearness to her so characteristic of Thoreau; for the other he had a keen appreciation, a fondness for the old masters of English and classic literatures and a rare insight into their meaning. Like Thoreau, too, he believed that Nature is the fountain of inspiration to literature. With such attributes of mind, aided by a scholarly training, broad sympathies, and a genial humour, he wrote with a charm and vividness that make many of his writings worthy of a place in our literature.

Descended from an old Scottish and Loyalist stock, he had an intense love for British institutions and for the city of St. John, which gave him birth, and whose best interests he had at heart. In the sterling truth of the man, in his large hearted desires to further the happiness of his fellow citizens and cause them to take pride in their city and its adornment, we seemed to see one of the best of those Loyalist lives being lived over again.

His bright mind retained its clearness and vigour almost to the last, amid such sufferings as rarely fall to the lot of man. Those who saw him suffer knew that a soul was being refined and was drawing nearer to God with every breath he drew.

A LADY in Ontario writes: I am very much pleased with the appearance and contents of your volume of Canadian History Readings which has just come to hand. It should be in the hands of every school boy and girl. I have recommended it to Mr. M——, head master of the high school here, and have sent him your address.

I AM happy to renew my subscription for another year. I enjoy the REVIEW, and it is helpful to me in my work.—J. J. G.

EDUCATIONAL REPORTS.

The reports of the superintendents of education for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have been received. It is not possible to deal with these in the present number of the REVIEW with any degree of fulness, but a few of the more important points in each may be noted.

Dr. Inch holds that it is the spirit of the school law that the rich shall contribute of their abundance to help educate their poorer fellow-citizens, and urges, as he did in his report three years ago, that the county-fund be increased from thirty cents a head to forty or fifty cents. He strongly advocates parish instead of district school boards, claiming that a wider choice of more intelligent and efficient trustees would lead to better administration of the school law, better salaries to teachers, more equal distribution of school burdens, and less friction and bitterness in the management of school affairs.

Dr. Inch recommends the appointment of a manual training director for the Provincial Normal School, and would like to see a chair of Agricultural Chemistry founded, in the University, and a School of Forestry and Mining for the Atlantic provinces. These recommendations should appeal strongly to all who favour stimulating through our schools the industrial development of the province. But with Nova Scotia well advanced in its School of Mining, should not New Brunswick devote its energies to the establishment of a School of Forestry in the University?

The report of Dr. Mackay also deals with district school boards in Nova Scotia, intimating that they are merely a survival of a once useful organ in the educational economy, and have now by changed conditions become somewhat of a menace to the healthy working of the educational system.

Dr. Mackay congratulates the province on the fact that the number of trained teachers has increased in ten years from 17 to 42 per cent.; and intimates that before long one year at the Normal School will be compulsory for the lower grades of license and two years for the higher grades.

In manual training Nova Scotia takes the lead in Canada. There are now eight Mechanic Science schools and five Domestic Science schools. The government grant is generous—a maximum of \$600 to each section.

Dr. Anderson points out serious faults in regard to light and ventilation in the school rooms of Charlottetown and Summerside, and refers to conditions for primary schools in one or two buildings in