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EDUCATIONAL FEATURES OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S VISIT.

Among the most pleasurable incidents connected with public and social life in Ontario, none has equalled that of the recent auspicious visit of His Excellency the Governor General to its capital. The Earl of Dufferin, as the Representative of the Sovereign, has indeed even more than realized the ideal among all classes of Canadian people of what that Representative should be, not only in the execution of his civil duties thus far, but also in the discharge of the popular and social functions of his high office. These features of His Excellency's duties are confessedly among the most delicate and difficult which he can be called upon to discharge. And yet, by common consent, it was felt that he has not only performed them during his recent visit to Toronto with rare tact and discretion, but that he has succeeded in infusing into them a heartiness (or, as the Americans would say, a graceful "naturalness") which was most pleasant and winning. In doing so it was also felt that, apart from the Governor-General's own *bonhomie* and good sense, there was imparted to the whole of His Excellency's movements and utterances an irresistible grace and charm by the presence and participation in them of the Countess of Dufferin. Gifted evidently with great amiability of disposition, Her Excellency blended with it a graciousness of manner which won all hearts, and which gave to Lord Dufferin's official visits somewhat of that pleasant impressiveness which the condescension of a personal visit of the Sovereign would produce.

Thus much of the personal and social aspects of His Excellency's visits. These, after all, may be considered as the most pleasant and lasting in their effects; but yet there is another and higher aspect of them in which we should like to view them.

There are many who remember with unmingled satisfaction the zeal and ability with which the late lamented Lord Elgin identified himself with the benevolent and educational enterprises of the Province in his day, and sought, both by his presence and eloquent advocacy of their interests, to promote their growth and development among us. For many years after his retirement from Canada, the moral and social effects of his popular advocacy of these great interests were felt. And to his oft-repeated reference to the progress of our educational system, in his many speeches and addresses in England and Scotland, are we to this day, to a great extent, indebted for its popularity abroad. He brought the subject prominently before the English and general public, and thus awakened an interest in it,—as an experiment in colonial government and education,—which leading statesmen in England have since shown in their desire to learn something more definitely of by personal inquiry or through royal commissions.

Lord Dufferin has happily sought to render a like service to the Province, and in doing so to give the full weight of his personal opinion and experience in this matter. He has not been content (as he himself expressed it,) to accept for an acquaintance with our system of education, mere popular report, or even the official reports of others, but he has endeavoured by personal inquiry and investigation to make himself acquainted with its leading principles, and so to master its details, as to be enabled to learn its quality and to estimate its value to the country. Not only has he obtained and examined the official reports on Education in Ontario, but, as an instance of his desire not simply to content himself with a mere formal visit, (as was customary with others of his predecessors,) to the leading educational institutions in the city, we may mention that he paid at least two visits each to the University of Toronto and to the Education Department, in the latter of which he spent nearly two hours on his first visit, and three on his second. Not only did he inspect with interest the various departments of these institutions; but he asked such practical questions in regard to what was shown him, and sought such illustrations of the practical utility of what he saw, that he was able in his own mind to form an opinion of their value, or to judge of their adaptation to the ends sought to be attained. In doing this, His Excellency showed a tact and discrimination which was remarkable, and yet a courtesy as well as deference to those he addressed, which (as coming from the Queen's Representative, and also the highest civil officer in the Dominion,) was most pleasing and graceful.

In all this the Governor-General has shown the rare sagacity