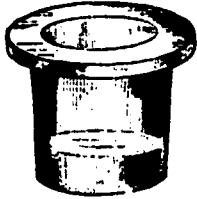


the pupils, which, placed as they generally are, upon an inclined desk, scarcely ever fail to spill, or fall and be broken. The general use of fixed inkstands, would save much trouble and inconvenience to teachers and to the scholars, many little quarrels and frequently punishments. The inkstand is covered, to prevent the ink from evaporating and also from receiving any dust or dirt.



The seats should be placed so as to face the teacher, and also, they should not front any of the principal windows of the school room. On reference to the following wood cut, representing a common school in Massachusetts, the importance of this advice will be readily understood. It will be perceived that there is a desk and chair for each scholar, which is certainly preferable, when the means of an institution will permit it. These seats are placed alternately, at right angles. The scholars are thus less exposed to amuse themselves during school hours either by conversing with each other, or by playing those little tricks which cause so much disturbance and are so subversive of school discipline. The rows of seats are separated by a division board running the whole length of the school; but if this arrangement permits the teacher to pass along the several rows of desks, without incurring the risk of upsetting the inkstands or deranging the books of the pupils, it presents one great disadvantage, that it greatly cramps their position while writing. We are of opinion that for some time yet, the double desks, as shewn in figure No. 2, will be found sufficient, and that the *bench-desks* as shewn in figure No. 1, will answer for schools with smaller means at their disposal. The cost of the double desk with two seats supported on iron, and a fixed inkstand, such as used in the Normal schools, is six dollars. They could no doubt be made cheaper if more generally used in Lower Canada; and we feel assured that if some, among the many ingenious mechanics to be found in our country parishes were to undertake to copy the models we have given in this number of our journal, using cheaper materials, they would be found so beneficial and so cheap that they would be taken into general use. The seats and desks of the Montreal Normal schools were made by Mr. William Allan, St. Gabriel Locks, Lachine Canal, and those for the Laval Normal school, Quebec, by Messrs. Peters.

## CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY.

### Memoir of the late Honorable Robert Baldwin.

We regret to announce the death of the Honorable Robert Baldwin, which took place last evening, at his residence in Spadina. Mr. Baldwin was born in this city, in 1802. His family, father and grand-father, came to this country in 1798. His father, the Honorable William Warren Baldwin, was the son of Robert Baldwin, Esq., of Summer Hill, otherwise Knockmole—near Corragolino, in the country of Cork, Ireland. When the family came to this country, they originally settled in the township of Clarke, on Lake Ontario, where they were among the earliest settlers. They afterwards removed to this city—then the Town of York—where they took up

their residence in Spadina; and there the family resided till the death of the father of the subject of this notice, which took place on the 8th January, 1844. The Hon. W. W. Baldwin, was a medical man; having taken his degree of M. D. at Edinburgh. After removing to York, however, Dr. Baldwin betook himself to the profession of law, which he practised with success for a number of years. He (father of the Hon. R. Baldwin) had represented the County of Norfolk in the Parliament of Upper Canada; and been called to the Legislative Council about six months before his death. On the occasion of the death of Dr. Baldwin, Mr. Hincks wrote: "Our country has lost a friend; and the country, it may be said, will follow him as mourners to the grave. By the removal of one so worthy, so disinterested, so excellent, we have sustained a loss, the magnitude of which it is difficult to appreciate, much more, in this community to repair. It is not Toronto only that will feel the privation, or drop tears of submissive sorrow over his honored tomb. The sad tidings, like an electric shock, the less convulsive in its effects because expected, will widely extend an awakened interest over regions sufficiently enlightened to appreciate his worth, and sufficiently grateful to deplore his loss." To his son, a sketch of whose life we are called upon suddenly after midnight to write, these words might with equal truth be applied. No public man, in Canada, perhaps, in his day, commanded such general respect as the Hon. Robert Baldwin, who yesterday evening departed this life. His integrity was so far above suspicion that the breath of calumny itself never uttered a word against his fair fame. He commanded the respect of all parties: the affection of his own was willingly accorded. His name, even to the last hour of his life, was a tower of strength: it might easily have been made the nucleus of a party round which the scattered elements of the Reform ranks would have rallied, till union was once more restored.

In stature Mr. Baldwin must have been about five feet nine or ten inches. His frame was of stout build; but the work of disease appears to have begun to undermine his constitution eight or nine years ago. In the Spring of 1850 his health had visibly declined; and there being no hopes of a speedy improvement, he was the more anxious to retire from public life, in the following year.

He was of a mild and affable disposition; but he lacked that peculiar style of address which characterizes the man easy of access and of familiar manners and habits. He had few of the characteristics which usually make a man popular with the crowd. He scorned to bend to those petty arts which inferior men find so useful, and indeed so indispensable, to their success in dealing with the public. He paid small court to even the most prominent of his constituents; and by this means lost something of that ephemeral and local popularity which are necessary to the statesman who wishes to retain undiminished the full strength of his position. His name is, however, inseparably interwoven with the brightest period of our history; the period in which constitutional principles triumphed over the oligarchical system on which the Province had previously been ruled. His was a career that will be the more valued according to the increasing distance at which it is seen; his a lustre that will shine the brighter as time continues to roll on.

Following the profession adopted by his father, he entered on the practice of the law; and the firm was long carried on under the name of Baldwin and Son—till he retired on the 28th July, 1848, when the business was continued by Mr. Adam Wilson. His father and he built up an extensive and lucrative practice; and he must have left behind him a fortune or something like a million of dollars. He owned an immense amount of property in this city. Of the large amount of wealth which he leaves behind, a part went to his father, by request, from the Hon. Peter Russell.

Mr. Baldwin inherited the liberal principles of his father. He was first elected to the Upper Canada Assembly in 1829, in opposition to Mr. Small; having in the previous year made an unsuccessful run against Mr. Mackenzie, for the County of York. This election took place on the resignation of Chief Justice Robinson; Mr. Baldwin came forward as the liberal candidate in opposition to Sir John Colborne's Administration. His opponent was then Deputy Clerk of the Crown, and many of his friends were well provided for, in one way or another, out of the public. The whole influence of the placement was cast against Mr. Baldwin. While the election was pending, Mr. Mackenzie wrote:—"Our earnest wish, is that the election of Mr. Baldwin may prove to the world that the capital of Upper Canada has burst her fetters, and followed the praiseworthy example of her sister city, Quebec, which sent to Parliament an independent citizen; a few months ago, in spite of all the military and civil influences of all the constituted authorities." Sir John Colborne, before his retirement from the government, recommended to the Colonial Secretary, the appointment of Mr. Baldwin to the Legislative Council, of which body, if we mistake not, an uncle of