

large a degree, devolved on me to determine and oversee. It is a great satisfaction and alleviation of official responsibility and labour to know, that while compelled by necessity and duty to observe the most rigid economy, and require the strictest vigilance in all branches of this complex department, I am permitted to enjoy the respect and sympathy of all its officers, and to witness mutual good will and cordial harmony prevailing amongst them.

I need not say how little any efforts of mine would have availed in producing the results to which you refer, had it not been for the ever-ready and efficient labours of the various officers of the establishment, and the cordial support of successive Governments and Parliaments. In every County of Upper Canada I have heard gratifying testimony to the useful labours and salutary influence of the Normal School, as also to the facilities which have been provided for furnishing the schools with maps and apparatus, and for improving school architecture, and for diffusing education and general knowledge; and during my visit last week to the seat of Government, I found every disposition that the most sanguine mind could desire, both amongst the responsible Ministers of the Crown and the members of the Legislature generally, to aid us in our work and increase our means of usefulness. And in no instance was this feeling more strongly expressed than by Her Majesty's representative, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, who has at all times so cordially and eloquently fostered and commended our system of normal and elementary instruction.

What we have thus far done, has been but laying the foundation. We are but commencing to raise the superstructure. Our system has only begun to be developed. The facilities as well as the fruits of the Normal School are yet immature. The buildings we now occupy are at length completed, so as to afford all the conveniences we could desire for lectures, teaching, and other purposes of the department; but I trust that in the course of the present year, we shall make the surrounding grounds tributary to the same objects—illustrating the teachings of agricultural chemistry and vegetable physiology by what may be witnessed on a limited scale (but sufficiently large for the purposes of teaching) in the culture and productions of a botanic, fruit, and vegetable garden, a rotation grain and grass farm, as well as a small arboretum of native and foreign specimens.

This year also we shall be able to commence the system of Public Libraries, for which the whole country is impatiently waiting. By the enlightened liberality of the Government and the Legislature, I trust also to be able to add £4000 to the apportionment of the grant in aid of Common Schools in Upper Canada, besides furnishing the *Journal of Education* gratuitously to all the school corporations and superintendents. And I venture to hope we shall be able to commence a public museum and library, and also form the nucleus of a fund towards the support of superannuated or worn-out teachers.

I think that while the future presents demands for no ordinary labor, it is also full of hope both to the teacher and the philanthropist, the parent and the child.

It remains for us to be impressed with the greatness of our mission, and the sacredness of our obligations—to do what in us lies to fulfil public expectations, and to perform our duties faithfully, ever imploring and relying upon the blessing of Him in whom is all our strength, and wisdom, and sanctity, and whose blessing maketh rich without the increase of sorrow.

The Doctor here handed the written reply to Mr. Robertson, and then said—

That while there was nothing more degrading than for a man to take all his opinions, and regulate his conduct by the opinions, and it may be the prejudices of others, yet there was nothing more encouraging—next to the approbation of Him in whose hands we are, and through whose mercy we hope for salvation—nothing more encouraging than the respect, the approbation, the confidence, and the sympathy of those with whom we are associated in our labors; and especially nothing more encouraging than the confidence and good-will of that portion of the people who are interested in the progress and general diffusion of knowledge. Never, during the whole course of my life, have I experienced so numerous, so strong, and affecting expressions of this confidence and sympathy, as during the last three months in making a tour through the Province. He (Dr. R.) felt very much gratified by the large attendance on the present occasion, as there was nothing that lay nearer his heart, in connection with the great work in which he was engaged, than to see all the teachers that came under his charge placed in circumstances to command the respect and promote the usefulness of the community. He was astonished and delighted during his recent tour at the very high estimate in which teachers were held generally to that in which they were held five years ago, and also to the very different feelings as to the standard of their qualifications from that which existed some years ago. Had he had on his list the names of 500 teachers he would venture to say he would have got schools for them all, for applications without number were made to him. But it was not possible for them within any given period to train a sufficient number of teachers to supply all the schools of Upper Canada. There

are at present nearly 3500 schools, and the utmost that we can do is to send forth 200 teachers a-year, and at that rate it would take twenty years to supply a sufficient number of teachers for all the schools. There is not a town or village in Upper Canada in which they are not applying for teachers from the Normal School; so that those worthy young men who prepare themselves for more extensive usefulness will have the most encouraging assurance of success. The Rev. Superintendent expressed his delight at seeing so many children present, and said that the advantages which these children enjoyed in the Model School, where there were so many able teachers, were more than could be enjoyed by children in any common school in the city, for there it was impossible to supply a sufficient number of teachers to give the same amount of instruction that was given in the Model School. He hoped the Model School children would be model children for all the city for their cleanliness, civility, and good conduct generally. The Rev. Superintendent concluded with these words—My earnest prayer to Almighty God is, that all the teachers by whom I am surrounded, and those friends who have met to do me honor this day, may live to witness such an unprecedented progress of civilization as to make them regard our own country as the pride of North America generally, and Upper Canada as the pride of all the British colonies. (Applause.)

The Rev. Adam Lillie, in the name of the Council of Public Instruction, then briefly addressed the Rev. Superintendent. He said: It affords us the greatest possible pleasure to witness this kind expression of sympathy with you in your labours for the elevation of the interests of the country. We go very heartily into the feelings which led these friends to present this testimony of respect. My own feelings, and I believe the feelings of those with whom I am associated, are, that by the blessing of God on your labours, you are rendering the country a very great service, and our hope is that He will spare your life very long in His service, and will enable you to realize to the fullest extent the desires with which your heart is so filled. We are delighted to see, that you have been making further plans for the future, and specially pleased in the interest manifested in relation to the well-being of the teachers by the proposal of some provision for their sustenance, when they have labored as long as the gratitude and good-feeling of the community should think consistent and honorable they should do. This proposal will meet with the fullest co-operation on the part of the Council. To the parties by whom this testimony of affection and respect has been presented, I would take the liberty to say, that we congratulate you quite as much as we do him to whom this presentation has been made. To you it is delightful to have been placed in the position that has enabled you to come forward warmly and heartily to present this memorial. It would matter very little, indeed, what your wishes and determinations were to perform your duty, if you were met in your attempt to discharge that duty by anything either like indifference, or intermeddling, or unkindness. We know it has been far otherwise, that you have felt yourselves free, and have been animated by the kindness and interest taken in all your endeavours, and we rejoice that you have been enabled to conduct yourselves so honourably. We do feel that the whole educational interests of the country have been most fortunately prosecuted—promoted, on the one hand, by the earnestness with which the Chief Superintendent has laboured, and, on the other, by the zeal and intelligence which the officers and teachers have manifested. The Rev. gentleman then congratulated the students of the Normal School, and sat down amidst great applause.

The interesting proceedings were then closed with the benediction by the Rev. Mr. Jennings.

#### DEATH OF PROFESSOR MURRAY.

On the 30th ult., suddenly, at Port Albert, Ashfield, the Rev. Robt. Murray, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in the University of Toronto. Mr. Murray was for some years in a declining state of health, and had, in consequence, withdrawn from the active duties of his Professorship, which, however, during his absence, were most efficiently performed by J. B. Cherriman, M.A., Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. Previously to Mr. Murray's appointment as Professor, he held the office of Assistant Superintendent of Common Schools, Upper Canada. He was long and favorably known in Upper Canada, and had endeared himself, by his amiability and modesty, to a large circle of friends, by whom his many excellent qualities will be held in affectionate remembrance.—*British Colonist*.

FOUR GOOD HABITS.—There were four good habits which a wise and good man earnestly recommended in his counsels and by his own example, and which he considered essentially necessary for the happy management of temporal concerns—these are punctuality, accuracy, steadiness, and despatch. Without the first, time is wasted, those who rely on us are irritated and disappointed, and nothing is done in its proper time and place. Without the second, mistakes the most hurtful to our own credit and interests, and that of others, may be committed. Without the third, nothing can be well done; and, without the fourth, opportunities of advantage are lost which it is impossible to recall.