

life, and are willing to attribute their success in a great measure to the education and training they received in the schools of the Society. It is with pleasure that I occasionally meet with those whom I can remember as scholars receiving daily instruction, and who, profiting by this instruction, have been useful to themselves and those requiring their services; and the thought will always arise that if the Society had done no more for the Province than provide a number of well-prepared and steady young men for the work which is daily to be done in this and different parts of Canada, it would have accomplished a large part of that which it professes to do for the advancement of education.

The Girls' School has, as I have already shown, furnished a considerable number of those who are now engaged as teachers in the schools of Canada, after undergoing a course of training in the Normal School. With reference to this, it must be borne in mind that those students who have had the benefit of preparation in successful elementary schools, where they have been well grounded in those subjects which serve to form a basis for more advanced knowledge, are the best fitted to receive benefit from a course of Normal School training. Our Girls' School, in the teachers who have superintended it, has been very fortunate; and Miss Middlemiss, who has now charge of it, independent of the number of her pupils who have entered the Training Institution, has been most successful in preparing many, who, on account of defective early instruction, were unable to meet the entrance examination.

It gave me much pleasure, after my arrival in Montreal, to find that I should be able to establish an Infant School. I found that no schools of this nature existed in the city; and it seemed likely that, if set on foot, they would prove as beneficial to the Province as they had been to other countries. I may also say that the Committee at home had procured for me the advantage of an acquaintance with the system as carried out in the excellent schools of the Home and Colonial Training Institution in London, and I felt anxious to put these principles into practice. Accordingly, as soon as our scholars had increased to such an extent as to overcrowd our Boys' and Girls' schools, I selected the younger children, and these, added to those of a still younger age, who came in expressly as infant school scholars, enabled me to begin the school at once. Since then this department has been in a flourishing condition, and summer and winter is full of children. Miss Robertson has had charge of it almost from the beginning, and most satisfactorily has she done her duty. Several infant schools and infant classes are at present at work in the city, conducted on the principles which conduce so much to the advancement of elementary instruction; and in acknowledging the benefit they confer on education, we must claim the credit of being the first to put these principles into operation, as far as the city of Montreal is concerned.

It ought to be mentioned here, also, that our schools have been of great benefit to those teachers engaged in the country, who, being unable to bear the expenses attending a course of training, have yet been desirous of improving themselves as much as possible in the art of teaching. Many of this class have visited us, and, on each occasion, we have been glad of an opportunity of aiding our fellow-workers in their endeavours for self-improvement. When we first began our schools, many teachers, living at a long distance, were advised, especially by the clergy, to devote a few days, to gather such hints as would prove useful to them in their profession.

At the end of each session the schools have been examined either col-