

The following appropriate prayer was offered up by the Rev. H. J. Grasett, A. M., a member of the Council:—

O Lord God, infinitely wise and good, who teachest man knowledge and givest both the skill and power to accomplish our purposes, look down, we beseech Thee in Thy infinite goodness, upon the work which we are about to commence.

We beg Thy blessing upon our undertaking. Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help; that in this, and in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name, and finally by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life.

Grant, O most merciful Father, that the School we are about to erect may ever acknowledge Thee as its great Builder, our blessed Saviour himself being the chief corner stone. On Thy holy word we lay the foundation, in full trust that so long as it is established upon this rock, it shall stand forever the monument of Thy goodness and loving kindness.

Mercifully vouchsafe to it a bountiful measure of Thy richest grace, and grant, O Lord, grant that it ever may prove a blessing to the land, training up Teachers who shall have not only the qualifications necessary to their important calling, but a due sense of the motives from which they should act, and the ends which they ought to seek, in the whole course of their life. Grant also, that the children who shall here be taught, may not only be instructed in sound and useful learning, but also be trained up in the way in which they should go, and when they are old not depart from it, so that they may live in the true faith and fear of God, in dutiful allegiance to the Queen, and in brotherly love and Christian charity.

We pray that Thy blessed Word may ever be the standard and the guide in all our plans for this end, and the sure foundation of all our instruction; that we may seek first the Kingdom of God, and Thy righteousness, and then expect every other good.

May the children of many generations, within the walls about to rise, be taught that knowledge which alone can make them wise unto salvation—the knowledge of Thee, whom to know is life eternal.

Look down upon us, O God, we beseech thee, and establish thou the work of our hands; yea the work of our hands establish thou it, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. RYERSON, Chief Superintendent of Schools for Upper Canada, then delivered the following Address to His Excellency the Governor General:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Normal and Model Schools for Upper Canada have been established for the instruction and training of school teachers. The special education of teachers is an essential element in the systems of public instruction of all countries in which the general education of the people is regarded as a matter of national importance. Experience has shown the necessity and advantage of a preparatory course of instruction and practice for the profession of teaching, as well as for the other professions and trades which are demanded by the necessities of every civilized community. Acting under a conviction so strongly and generally established, our Legislature provided, in 1846, for the establishment of a Normal and Model School for Upper Canada. This was done, not by making a new or special grant out of the public revenue, but by appropriating for that purpose a small part of the Upper Canadian portion of the legislative grant for the support of common schools. The success of the experiment has rendered indispensable the erection of the structure, the corner stone of which is about to be laid by your Excellency.

This Institution is designed to accommodate 200 teachers-in-training, and 600 pupils in the Model School;—a school intended not merely as a pattern, according to which common schools generally should be conducted, but a school in which the teachers-in-training will practice in teaching the subjects of the instructions and lectures given in the Normal School. In addition to this, accommodation has been provided for the offices of the Department of Public Instruction; a depository for maps, apparatus, text and library books for schools throughout Upper Canada; a library and museum; rooms for a school of art and design, in which it is proposed, by the aid of a legislative grant of about £500 per annum, to give a special course of instruction adapted to the interests and progress of the mechanical arts and manufactures.

The land on which these buildings are in the course of erection, is an entire square, consisting of nearly eight acres, two of which are to be devoted to a botanical garden, three to agricultural experiments, and the remainder to the buildings of the Institution and grounds for the gymnastic exercises of students and pupils. It is thus intended, that the valuable course of lectures given in the Normal School in vegetable physiology and agricultural chemistry, shall be practically illustrated on the adjoining grounds, in the culture of which the students will take a part during a portion of their hours of recreation.

The system of instruction and discipline adopted in this Institution, is founded upon Christian principles, and, I hope, pervaded to a great extent by a Christian spirit; and though free from the slightest tinge of sectarianism in its management, the provision made for watching over the moral interests of the students and their religious instruction, has been found, during the last three years, to be more effective than that of any other public educational institutions with which I am acquainted.

The principles on which the Normal School is established and conducted, form the basis of our whole system of public elementary instruction for Upper Canada,—a system which recognizes Christianity as an essential part of education, and unites the clergy with their people in providing for it, and in imparting it,—a system in support of the teachers of which alone, the people of Upper Canada have, during the last year, (according to returns which are prepared, and which will shortly be laid before Parliament,) paid, by self-imposed taxation, the sum of £88,526, besides £14,189 for the erection of school-houses, and which includes in its 3,059 schools, 151,891 children.

The Institution, the corner stone of which Your Excellency has graciously consented this day to lay, is erected by a public grant of £15,000—an enlightened liberality for this object on the part of our Legislature, in advance of that of any other Legislature on the American continent—a liberality which, I trust, will be more than justified by the practical and simple, but comprehensive operations of the system of which it is the mainspring and the exponent.

In furtherance of the same great object, arrangements have recently been made, and will be carried into effect in the course of a few months, by which maps, school-books, and every description of school apparatus, will be provided for and rendered accessible upon the same terms to all the public schools of Upper Canada;—also, books for libraries, including a large selection of the books best adapted for popular reading, that issue from both the British and American press. By the arrangements which have been entered into, and which have been effected in England by the aid of the Imperial Government, through the cordial and active exertions of Earl Grey, these facilities for school improvement and general knowledge, will be rendered accessible to the municipal and school authorities throughout Upper Canada at an average expense of more than twenty-five per cent. less than they could have otherwise been procured, if procured at all;—facilities which obstacles hitherto insuperable, have prevented any Educational Department in the neighbouring States from providing for the advancement of popular education and the diffusion of useful knowledge.

It is my gratifying duty to add, that this Normal School has been established, that these buildings are in the course of erection, that general regulations for schools are adopted, and books selected, by the aid and under the direction of a Council of Public Instruction, whose proceedings have been harmoniously conducted from the commencement, and the members of which, with one exception receive no other remuneration than the gratitude of their country and the pleasing consciousness of promoting its educational interests in every way in their power.

Among the influences which have contributed to the gratifying spectacle of this day, not the least is the deep interest which your Excellency has always manifested in the education of the Canadian people; and I doubt not, that in all time to come, the recollection of the educational progress of Canada under the fostering auspices of your government, will be a source of real pleasure to Your Excellency. There are four circumstances which encourage the most sanguine anticipations in every patriotic heart in regard to our educational future: The first is, the avowed and entire absence of all party spirit in the school affairs of our country, from the provincial Legislature down to the smallest municipality. The second is, the precedence which our Legislature has taken of all others on the