

long and faithful labour merit and is sure to receive, wherever the interests of public instruction and popular enlightenment are spoken of in a cultured and appreciative community. That the founder of a national school system should have a remarkable grasp of its affairs, is a circumstance which may seem to call for little comment; but Dr. Ryerson, beyond his vigorous executive, had so intuitive a perception, not only of the contemporary but the remote concerns of education in Ontario, and could so instantly devise wise things to further the interests of the schools and those engaged in them, that one is prepared to find that his administration possessed every element of success, and that it won for the school system the praise of many lands. Looking at his work over the interval between the present and the period of his superannuation, many things recur to the mind to attest the value of his services to the country, and to emphasize the loss education sustained in his retirement. His failure, in later years, to read the progressive signs of the times, in regard to matters connected with his Department, may be said to be the one circumstance which in any degree qualifies enthusiastic commendation of the man and his work. But after so long a service, that he should brook no check on official autocracy, and chafe under consultative control, is perhaps little to be wondered at. Yet, that he and his staff unwisely assumed an attitude of hostility towards necessary reforms, and showed but scant courtesy to those who wished to save education from degenerating into a merely official system, are matters which it may be wholesome to remember. While we recall these incidents of the past, we at the same time acquit the subject of this notice, in the course he took in regard to these controversies, from any motive but that of unwillingness to see the Department made the object of criticism, and the desire to be loyal to those with whom he had long been associated. But behind his ardour for controversy, and despite its oft-times bitterness, there was a large, human heart, and a geniality of presence and manner which won for

Dr. Ryerson the respect of his opponents, and the love and reverence of thousands of his countrymen. In his contact with the profession, courtesy, it may be said, never received an abrasion, and the teacher found in him ever a friend, and the humblest was always sure of his rights. Throughout the country none could better quicken local energy in educational work; and the school-houses of the Province are standing monuments to his enthusiasm and zeal. If the grave has closed upon his form, his work remains; and the memory of Egerton Ryerson will long continue the best incentive to advance it!

THE LATE INSPECTOR MARLING.

As sudden as it was sad was the news that spread over the Province conveying intelligence of the death of Mr. S. A. Marling, M.A., High School Inspector, which occurred on the evening of the day that closed the career of the venerable ex-Chief Superintendent of Education. To his many friends, among High School Masters particularly, the announcement of the decease of this most estimable gentleman must have come with appalling suddenness, as we know that it brought a sorrow to, and made the heart ache of, everyone of those who knew and had relations with him. Mr. Marling was a true gentleman, a man of very pleasant and winning manners, and was universally beloved by the profession. He lived in a lofty moral altitude, and exercised an influence for good wherever he went. One who knew him well writes of him as a kind husband, a loving and sympathetic father, an affectionate brother and son, and a firm friend. He was enemy to no man, but ever manifested that charity which is the fulfilling of the law, and that spirit of brotherhood which maketh all men kin. He was a man of large sympathies, of blameless life, and a Christian in heart and conduct. He will be much missed in the schools, and the Minister loses in him a faithful and conscientious servant, ever discreet in his contact with the profession, and always interested in and loyal to his