

Mr. Chancellor Vankoughnet, Hon. J. S. McDonald, &c. Kingston Grammar School has also a long catalogue of men of mark, whom she can claim: Sir J. A. Macdonald, Sir Henry Smith, Hon. A. Campbell, &c., &c. In truth there is hardly a Grammar School which has attained any age that cannot point with pardonable pride to the distinguished success of its pupils. Surely Schools which have thus conferred on the Province two generations of eminent men now deserve at the hands of the Legislature an attentive hearing while they respectfully, but earnestly, demand the restitution of their rightful inheritance.

THE GENERAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.

In 1823, during the Lieutenant-Governorship of Sir P. Maitland, the first inroad appears to have been made on the Grammar School Reserves. Their management was committed to a General Board of Education, (†) having the Rev. Dr. Strachan at its head. This Board exercised, though very imperfectly, a jurisdiction (‡) somewhat similar in extent to that of our present able Chief Superintendent. The Board of Education continued an expensive and rather useless existence, the funds for its support being derived from sales of the Reserves, from 1823 to 1832 inclusive.—Those ten years were in the highest degree disastrous to educational progress.

YORK ALIAS TORONTO VERSUS THE WHOLE PROVINCE.

During that period there arose at York that insatiable spirit of centralization which has continued to this hour, and which, in our time, is fast reducing the conditions of every public question to those expressed by the general formula *Toronto vs. the Province*,—that spirit which, while dictating agreeable platitudes regarding "the diffusion of knowledge," would fain centralize within the limits of a single town the agencies by whose dispersion alone, the diffusion of knowledge becomes possible. All kinds of educational monopolies were, during that decade, devised in the interest, real or supposed, of York. Thus, while throughout the Province generally Common School Teachers were receiving an average allowance of but £4 or £5 per annum, [14] together with such paltry sum as was raised from local sources, a so-called Central School at York, was by the especial grace of the General Board of Education paying to its Headmaster out of the Common School Fund about £300 *stg.* per annum, [15] and to two assistants larger salaries than the average of Common School Teachers obtain at this hour. Be it understood that York was already well supplied with Common Schools. At least three Common Schools [16] already graced that favoured village, [17] and stood almost within the shadow of the Central School. In 1832 we find this disgraceful misappropriation of funds exciting the honest indignation of Wm. Lyon Mac-

† Journal Assembly, 1831, Appendix, page 106.

‡ Speech of Bishop Strachan at the opening of King's College.

14 Jour. Ass. 1832-3, App. p. 70. 15 Report of Select Committee on the Petition of Thomas Appleton, Jour. Ass. 1828, App. The Committee very properly observe: "If the sums appropriated to the Central School were distributed as an encouragement to Schools in the interior of the country where money is scarce and the patronage both needed and deserved, it would be most beneficially felt in every Township in the Home District, and in every other District also." 16 This fact can be gleaned from the evidence in Appleton's case. 17 The population of York at the time of the establishment of the Central School, was hardly 2,000.