

probably known to most of our readers, under the new Common School Act, for this year, a Board of Education has been established, with a view to introduce a system of instruction into all our common schools, as should be best adapted to the growing wants of the colony. That Board has wisely decided, that, in order to introduce a superior system of education, one of the first requisites is, to provide a more efficient class of instructors. To this end, a Normal, or Training School, for the systematic instruction of young men in the theory and practice of popular education, has been established in Toronto; and a building of the same took place, on Monday, November 1st, when appropriate addresses were made by Dr. Ryerson, the Chief Superintendent of Education, Mr. Robertson, the Head Teacher, and Mr. Hind, the Teacher of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. The attendance was numerous, including the Lord Bishop of Toronto, several of the Clergy of the various denominations, Dr. McCaul Vice President of King's College University, Mr. Barron, Principal of Upper Canada College, the Mayor, Chief Justice, and a number of influential citizens. The Board has been fortunate to secure on easy terms, a very suitable building—the late Government House. On the walls of the lecture room, was an exceedingly well fitted up, we observed an excellent set of maps, prints, illustrative of natural history—diagrams for teaching mechanical philosophy; while the lecture table was surrounded with a pretty extensive set of general apparatus, and models of the steam engine and machinery, sufficient we should say, for conducting the pupils through an elementary course in chemistry, electricity, mechanics, &c.

We are glad to find that agricultural chemistry and mechanics are to occupy a prominent position in the system of education pursued in the Normal School. This will, in some degree, supply a long and widely felt want in the agricultural community. Young men will go forth from the Normal School, into different sections of the country, each one having his own little sphere of duty and usefulness. In process of time, the whole country will be occupied by competent teachers—not only as it relates to the usual branches of education, but including those likewise, which have a special and important bearing on agricultural pursuits and the mechanical arts. In this way

a little leaven, formed in the Normal School, will go on increasing and ramifying, till it has leavened the whole lump.

If the national system of education now proposed, and happily commenced, be only sustained with energy, and carried into operation in the true spirit of an all embracing philanthropy and charity, who can tell what blessings it may be the means of imparting to the rising generation of Canada? Not only will our arts and manufactures and agriculture receive new and continued impulses towards a progressive development, thereby increasing our national wealth, and opening up fresh sources of national greatness and physical enjoyment, but what is of still greater moment will be sure to follow, a tendency to an ever increasing degree of intelligence, order, industry, and virtue, among the great mass of the people.

We have perused with much satisfaction and pleasure, Dr. Ryerson's very able and instructive Report, recently published, on a system of Elementary Instruction for this Province, and heartily recommend it to the best attention of our readers. And if there were no other reasons for carrying into full effect an improved system of instruction, the startling and humiliating fact, stated in the Annual Report of Common Schools for 1846, would be alone sufficient—that one half of the children, of school age, in Upper Canada, are without the means of any school education whatever! And moreover, it would appear, that much of the instruction that is in operation, is of an indifferent character. To permit such a state of things to exist much longer among us, in an age so fertile in the discovery of means for social amelioration and the promotion of man's highest good, would be a disgrace to our civilization,—reproachful to our common profession as Christians,—and must ultimately jeopardize the institutions and impair the prosperity of our country.

Entertaining these views, it is our earnest desire to see all party feeling and prejudices laid aside, relative to this great question, and to put forth an united effort in diffusing far and wide, the light of knowledge, the spirit of patriotism, and a common brotherhood.

*To prevent swelling from a Bruise.*—Immediately apply a cloth, five or six fold, dipped in cold water, and dipped anew as soon as it grows warm.