

a general department, the other schools of industrial science. Under the former head will be embraced—1st, the literary branch, comprising general and reference libraries, reading-rooms, accommodation, as far as may be practicable, for the literary societies of the town, and lectures on subjects kindred to this branch; 2d, museums; 3rd, a collection of mining records; 4th, lectures on general scientific subjects; 5th, periodical meetings for the reading and discussion of original communications, upon the plan of the sections of the British Association; and 6th, a gallery of fine arts for reception of examples of painting and sculpture. The schools are intended to give systematic instructions in chemistry as applied to the various manufactures and agriculture, mechanics, metallurgy, mineralogy, and geology, ventilation of mines, and mining, engineering, &c.—It is intended to send out another arctic expedition in the summer of 1854. The object of the expedition will be to endeavour to make a passage into the polar sea, to the north-east of Spitzbergen—quite a new route.—The King of Bavaria, at his last birth-day, instituted a new order, called “the Order of Maximilian of the Arts and Sciences.” The decorations of the order have been already sent to several learned men and artists.—A Russian Savant, M. Jacobi, has invented an apparatus for employing electricity in attacking whales. By means of it, several successive shocks can be given to the large leviathan, and it is assumed that it will thereby be rendered powerless.

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LORD ELGIN IN EDINBURGH.

The Earl of Elgin presided at the annual meeting of the “Apprentice School Association” of Edinburgh, on the 16th January, and delivered a beautiful address on the occasion. Alluding to Canada, His Excellency said:—“I make bold to say that there is no part of the continent of America in which more has been done within the last few years to extend education to all ranks and classes in the community, or in which more liberal exertions have been made, and more liberal co-operation has existed between the Government and the people, to effect that great object, than in the British colony of Upper Canada.” [Applause.]

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

At the annual meeting of the “Apprentice School Association,” held in Edinburgh on the 16th January, the Rev. Dr. Guthrie, in the course of a powerful address, expressed the following sentiments in respect to compulsory education:—“He held that the State ought to charge itself with the duty of seeing that every child in the country had the means of education, and should charge itself, in addition, with the duty of seeing that every child in the country was educated. Some people might start at this, and say, ‘Oh, you interfere with the liberty of the subject.’ But why should the State take care that the child of every mill-spinner should be taught, and punish the parent for neglecting it, and not take the same care of the children of the Grassmarket or the Cowgate? The law did not allow a man to starve his child. It was very cruel, it might be said, to starve the body. Very cruel, it was true; and the State interfered with the liberty of the subject there; but if it was right in the law to compel the parent to feed the child’s body, was it right in the law to compel the parent to starve his child’s soul? Suppose the law did not compel him to feed the child’s body, death would step in, and relieve society of the evil there; but if they did not compel him to feed the mind, what happened? The untaught child, in nine cases out of ten, became a burden, a nuisance, a danger to society.”

*Official Circular addressed to the Clerks of County Municipalities in Upper Canada, on the appointment of Grammar School Trustees.*

EDUCATION OFFICE,

TORONTO, 14th January, 1854.

SIR,

According to the provisions of the new grammar school act (16th Viet., cap. 186) which came into force the beginning of the current year, the county municipal councils are to appoint the trustees of the grammar schools throughout Upper Canada; and I address you this circular [which you will please lay before the council of which you are clerk], in order to draw the special attention of your council to the 9th section of the act, which provides that “the several county municipalities in Upper Canada, at their first sittings to be held after the first day of January, 1854, shall select and appoint three fit and proper persons to be trustees for each of the grammar schools within their counties or union of counties, and shall decide the order in which the said persons so chosen shall retire from the said board.” Before adverting to the duty of county councils under this clause of the act, I may remark, that among other points of difference between the new and former grammar school acts, are the following:—1st, Instead of there being one board of trustees for the management of *all* the grammar schools in a county, there is to be a board of six trustees for *each* grammar school. 2d, All the trustees of grammar schools are to be appointed by county councils, instead of by the Crown. 3d, One-third of the members of each grammar school corporation retires from office annually, and the places of the retiring members, as well as all other vacancies, are to be filled up by the county council, as provided in the 9th section of the act. 4th, All the trustees of such grammar schools, as may be hereafter established, are to be appointed by the county municipalities, as provided for by the 10th section of the act. 5th, The board of trustees of each grammar school has the appointment and removal of all the officers, and the entire management of the school. 6th, In each grammar school certain subjects are to be taught and certain regulations are to be observed.

It will, therefore, be seen that the success and usefulness of each grammar school will be very much affected by the character and qualifications of the trustees appointed; and their character and qualifications will altogether depend on the appointments of the county councils.

One of the objections most strongly urged against the new grammar school act has been, that county councils were not competent to select, or, from the influence of personal or party feeling, would not select fit and proper persons to manage the grammar schools. I earnestly and confidently hope, that your county council will, by its selection of trustees, falsify this objection, show the groundlessness of the fears which have prompted it, and justify the large recognition of the popular principles of government which characterize the provisions of the grammar school act. The true way for a people to secure the continuance and extension of popular government is to administer it in the most equitable and beneficial manner.

Now, as none but persons acquainted with agriculture can judge of the qualifications and proceedings of a professed agriculturist; so none but persons acquainted with the subjects taught in grammar schools are fully competent to judge of the labors of the masters and their assistants, the wants of the