

whole system of public instruction throughout this province? It would be the more ungrateful in us to forget his memory on this occasion inasmuch as it was he who first attempted the establishment of Normal Schools, made a voyage to Europe for this purpose, and returned to Canada accompanied by two professors, whose labours were prematurely brought to a close by circumstances which were fully explained by one of them on the occasion of the inauguration of the Jacques Cartier Normal School.

Happily, gentlemen, that in this country, in which the memory of distinguished individuals appears to be closed up almost simultaneously with their graves, the two reverend gentlemen above referred to have left behind them, the one, his "*Institutiones Philosophicæ*," and the other his "*Géographie Moderne*" and his "*Conférences de Notre-Dame*," which will contribute in no small degree in recalling their memory to our minds.

But for you, pupil-teachers of the Normal School, their memory must be ever present to your mind with him whose illustrious name we have this day given to your new institution. I feel most happy in having been able to place at your head, at the head of the professors of the Normal School, whose duty it will be to train you in the art, one of the worthy successors and continuators of Monseigneur Laval's institution: the Reverend Mr. Horan, a distinguished member of the Quebec Seminary.

You have heard me remark, that Quebec should be proud of possessing this institution within its walls,—but, on your side, you should be happy that you have been brought together here rather than elsewhere.

Where could you, indeed, apply yourselves with more zeal to your studies, than in this city, the cradle, in fact, of religion, arts and sciences on this continent? Is there any one branch of human knowledge which you are not specially called upon to cultivate, by the souvenirs attached to some of the many interesting objects with which you are surrounded?

Where can the sublime science of religion speak more forcibly to your hearts than here, where the cross was first planted with so much splendour; here, from whence went forth so many intrepid missionaries, so many noble martyrs, to meet in the depth of the impenetrable forest, tortures which no human tongue can describe?

Where could you study the beautiful language of your ancestors more agreeably than in the very place where the first apostles of this country, and the worthy assistants of Madame de la Peltrie, first taught the young Indians to lisp it, mixed up with their own strange language?

Where could you better apply yourself to the study of arithmetic, mathematics, and all the other branches applicable to commerce and the arts, than in this great commercial and manufacturing city, where their use and application are before your eyes in a thousand different ways?

And geography? Do not the vessels arriving from every quarter of the globe, loaded with the produce of every soil, of every climate, invite you to its study as an agreeable pastime?

Poetry and literature are at home in this magnificent site,—and if the view of the king of rivers which, with the waters of its numberless tributaries, flows at your feet; if the grand spectacle spread out before you, still bearing the stamp of its primitive grandeur, amidst the wonders of civilization; if the basin of Quebec, surrounded by its undulating and graceful mountains, cannot inspire your muse, then, indeed, you may in vain search the whole world for one spark of poetic fire.

The fine arts have no where, on this continent, richer galleries than our churches: nature and art will thus become, for those who may feel so inclined, a double source of inspiration.

And history! History is everywhere—around us, beneath us; from the depths of yonder valleys, from the top of that mountain, history rises up and presents itself to our notice, exclaiming: Behold me!

Beneath us, among the capricious meanderings of the River Saint Charles, the *calvaire* of Jacques Cartier is the very place where he first planted the cross and held his first conference with the Seigneur Donzonnas. Here, very near to us, beneath a venerable elm tree, which, with much regret, we saw cut down, tradition states that Champlain first raised his tent. From the very spot on which we now stand, Mr. de Frontenac returned to Admiral Phipps that proud answer, from the mouth of his cannon, which will always remain recorded by history. Under these ramparts are spread the plains on which fell Wolfe and Montcalm, and where, in the following year, the Chevalier de Lévis gained the immortal victory in honor of which the citizens of Quebec are erecting a monument. Before us, on the heights of Beauport, the souvenirs of battles not less heroic recall to our remembrance the names of Longueuil, Ste.-Hélène,

and de Juchereau-Duchesnay. Below us, at the foot of that tower on which floats the British flag, Montgomery and his soldiers all fell, swept by the grape shot from a single gun pointed by a Canadian artilleryman.

On the other hand, under that projecting rock, now crowned with the guns of Old England, the intrepid Dambourges, sword in hand, drove Arnold and his men from the houses in which they had established themselves. History is then everywhere around us. She rises as well from these ramparts, replete with daring deeds, as from those illustrious plains, equally celebrated for feats of arms, and she again exclaims: Here I am.

But of all teaching, most assuredly the one most necessary for you, who are to become the instructors of youth, has been given by the zeal which the citizens of Quebec have evinced for the education of their children.

Indeed, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen of the city council, I cannot allow this occasion to pass without reiterating personally my thanks, and expressing my high appreciation of the liberality you have lately shown in adding to the amount of your contribution to your public schools. I must also state that these schools I lately visited, and can assure you that they are not unworthy of your generosity, and will bear comparison with all others of the same class which have come under my inspection.

But, gentlemen, I think I should now cease. I do not know whether I will not be taxed with partiality when I speak of the place of my birth, of a city in which I for many years resided, where, under the shade of the venerable tree to which I have just alluded, I received from my parents and our oldest fellow citizens so many excellent lessons, and so many good examples; of a city that selected me, when a very young man, for its representative in the Canadian Parliament, and thereby promoted me to several high offices, and who, on the eve of our separation, honored me by choosing me as the interpreter of its religious respect for the memory of the brave men who fell beneath its ramparts; of a city, in fine, where it would be my desire, could we be more certain of our future, to come and join many of those beings so dear to me, who have preceded me to the tomb. All I can do then is to confine myself to the wish, that this institution may take its place among those which you so justly appreciate, and that it may accomplish all the good you anticipate from its establishment; that it may strengthen ties which unite this ancient city, by the bonds of science, moral and religious education, and of patriotism, to the vast and beautiful country by which it is surrounded; that it may train good teachers who, in their turn, will bring up and train pupils hereafter to become the strength, consolation and honor of our land. I cannot better conclude, mylord, than by requesting that you will yourself address the audience and the pupils, who are already indebted to you for so many acts of kindness. Neither could I do so without expressing my sincere thanks to you, as well as to our venerable Archbishop, whom indisposition unfortunately prevents from being present at this day's ceremony, for your kind cooperation with the department of education, in establishing the present institution; indeed, so far as to allow us to place the female-teachers belonging to the school, under the protection of the religious ladies, successors of madame de la Peltrie. Your concurrence on this occasion, mylord, adds one more generous act to the many which already entitle you to the love and gratitude of the faithful of this vast diocese.

The Bishop of Tloa then rose, and said that he congratulated the Superintendent of Education, on his idea of making a public festival of the inauguration day of the Laval Normal School. Festivals are, in fact, intended to celebrate auspicious events. Now, these normal schools are really a boon to the people, inasmuch as it is the children of the people who will reap all the advantage to be derived from their establishment. This festival is, therefore, a public one, one to be celebrated by every friend of his country. Those in whose minds it originated are true patriots. But we must not be deluded by this word, patriot.

I do not comprehend within the meaning of this word, said his Lordship, people who are always seeking novelties, always desiring changes in men and things: these are not the real friends of their country. The true patriot is he, who is always ready to aid, to the utmost of his power, every step taken for the rational advancement and progress of his country. Of this class of patriots, the foremost is the priest; because he is the man of the people, and he is so, because he is the man of God. The whole of his affections are centred in the people,—he acknowledges no individualities,—he knows that virtue alone constitutes happiness: consequently we cannot be surprised when we hear him preach in favor of virtue and deprecate vice. He is also aware that ignorance is the source of degradation not only of individuals but also of whole nations.—This is the reason that priests are the advocates of education, that