

THE CENTRAL SCHOOL.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Chapter I.

Near the crest of a ridge of land that extends from the base of the mountain to Burlington Heights, and which evidently formed part of the shore line of Lake Ontario in the far remote ages, stands a noble stone structure, the Hamilton Central School. Associated as it has been with the early life of the boys and girls of this city for the past half century, it is endeared to them by the memories of many a victory and many a defeat in the educational arena. How many aspirations for a noble and a useful life have been nourished here! How many dormant faculties have been awakened and roused into activity! How many promises for a bright career in the future have been fulfilled since they, as boys and girls, fell into line and marched into the classrooms! Let the answer be given by the grey haired men and women, who have come from all parts of the continent to attend this semi-centennial celebration and to renew old friendships, on the old play ground, in the old class rooms, under the old headmaster.

Could we but read the thoughts that lie deeply hidden in the innermost recesses of their hearts, or measure the slowly penetrating influences that have fashioned their characters, we too would be proud to return to these old scenes and live over again the happy days of childhood. We would enjoy once more with them, though only in imagination, the busy life of the schoolroom, where they applied themselves with youthful energy to the study of their favorite subjects, or slowly plodded over the distasteful ones, under the watchful eye and guidance of the teacher, or planned and executed the mischievous tricks