

work. 3. That the property of the country is responsible for, and should contribute towards, the education of the entire youth of the land; and that as a complement to this, "compulsory education" should necessarily be enforced. 4. That a thorough and systematic inspection of the schools is essential to their vitality and efficiency. 5. That Christianity should form the basis of the whole system. These, with other important principles, Dr. Ryerson kept steadily in view during the whole thirty-two years of his administration of the school system of Ontario. Their judicious application has contributed largely, under the Divine blessing, (which he ever sought) to the wonderful success of his labours.

The Rev. Egerton Ryerson (or, as he was baptized, Adolphus Egerton Ryerson), was born in the Township of Charlotteville, on the 24th of March, 1803. His father, Colonel Joseph Ryerson, a United Empire Loyalist, in the British service at the time of the American Revolution, was born in New Jersey in 1760. He first joined as a cadet, and was one of the five hundred and fifty loyal volunteers who went to Charleston, South Carolina. For his good conduct in bearing despatches nearly two hundred miles into the interior, he was promoted to a lieutenancy in the Prince of Wales' Volunteers by Sir Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester). Subsequently he was engaged in six battles, and was once wounded. At the peace of 1783 he was exiled as a loyalist, and went to New Brunswick, thence to Upper Canada—he and his family enduring very great hardship in penetrating into the interior of the then unbroken wilderness of western Canada. He settled in Charlotteville, and lived there until his death. In the war of 1812 he and his three sons again joined the British standard, and acquitted themselves bravely. During his life he held various appointments under the crown. He died in 1854, at the venerable age of ninety-four years, after having enjoyed his half-pay as a British officer for the unprecedented period of seventy years. Dr. Ryerson was the fourth son of Colonel Ryerson, and was named after two British officers who were intimate friends of his father.

Dr. Ryerson's habits of study at this time were characteristic of his practice in after life. He was an indefatigable student; and so thoroughly did he ground himself in English subjects—grammar, logic, rhetoric—and the classics, and that, too, under most adverse circumstances, that in his subsequent active career