

a great success. Intimately connected with him as I was for nearly two years, I can speak of his ability, tact and administrative power, because he was, in addition to being principal of the Normal school, also superintendent of the city schools. He succeeded in carrying out the difficult task of grading Protestant and Catholic children in the schools so that entire satisfaction was given to the citizens. I consider the province owes him a debt of gratitude for his successful labours." Nor is the testimony of others less explicit. "Mr. Harper," says the Rev. Mr. McLennan, "has occupied for some time the position of principal of the Normal school of this province, and of superintendent of the city schools, having been invited to occupy these offices by the Government for the purpose of establishing a system of training, organization and equipment suitable to give effect to a Public School Act, passed by the Legislature in 1877. The high reputation which he enjoyed as a teacher and writer on school affairs—the influential situation he was filling at the time as principal of the Victoria school, St. John, New Brunswick, and the recommendation of prominent educationists who were acquainted with his career, pointed him out as eminently fitted for the position offered to him in Prince Edward Island. The heavy task which he undertook was performed with vigour, ability and acknowledged success. The condition of the city schools, in point of organization, and methods of instruction, was soon brought into conformity with that which characterises the best public schools in other provinces. A superior public edifice was constructed at a cost of \$30,000; while in the Normal school, the work of instruction and training, conducted more immediately by himself, gave indications of the value of that special work, virtually new in this province." At the end of a year or more, when Dr. Harper proposed to return to St. John, the government of Prince Edward Island, being anxious to continue the work of educational progress so successfully inaugurated, put forth every effort to induce him to resign his position in New Brunswick, and to take up his abode permanently in Charlottetown. After some delay they succeeded, and for three years the subject of our sketch became a resident of the island, holding during the last year of his residence, when a change of government, in 1879, brought about the amalgamation of the Normal school and the Prince of Wales' college, the position of professor in the amalgamated institution, with special supervision of the

department for the training of teachers. Beyond his professional reputation, however, Dr. Harper has not failed to make his mark as a gentleman of matured literary tastes. From his earliest years he has taken a deep interest in literature and literary pursuits. In Nova Scotia he took an active part in establishing a literary periodical, devoted at its inception to the cultivation of Canadian literature, and has continued more or less frequently to contribute to our periodical literature in prose and verse. Many of his lyrics have been highly praised, while some of his poems in the Scottish dialect merit a prominent place in the literature of his native country. He also enjoys a reputation of some distinction as a writer and compiler of school text-books, and is the author of several excellent lectures, including "Plato," "The New Education," "Cause and Effect in School Work," and others. The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec is indebted to him for two valuable papers, published in the *Transactions*, and entitled, "The Maritime Provinces," and "The Development of the Greek Drama." He is also a contributor to the *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Harper at present holds the position of rector of the Quebec High School, being, besides examiner for teachers' licenses, secretary-treasurer of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners, and for a season was interim professor of mathematics in Morrin College. He is also president of the Teachers' Local Association; vice-president of the Provincial Association of Teachers; vice-president of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society, and vice-president of the St. Andrew's Society. He was married to Agnes, daughter of William Kirkwood, of Stanley Muir, Paisley, by whom he has had two sons and five daughters. Mrs. Harper died in 1883. In the rank of progressive educationists, Dr. Harper occupies a prominent place. Few can show a fuller record of honest work done in the interests of education in Canada. Indeed he has always been most ready to lend his experience, professional training, and his literary ability to advance the interests of a calling which is now being universally recognized as second in importance to no other.

Leys, John, Barrister, Toronto, was born at Pickering, Ontario County, Ontario, on the 27th January, 1834. He is a son of Francis Leys, a pioneer settler in the township, who came from Aberdeenshire, Scotland. His mother was Rachel Ernst, of Pickering. Our subject received his early education

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