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TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENT MACMURCHY'S ADDRESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

IN the remarks which through custom it now becomes my duty to address to you, I purpose to confine myself to a few of those points with which we, to whom the parents of the country entrust their children for nurture in all that truly enobles a human being, should be especially conversant.

The work to be done under any school law is threefold. First, to provide sufficient and suitable school accommodation; second, to enforce regular attendance of all children of school age at the schools thus provided; third, to adopt the necessary means to secure for the children thus assembled a complete and efficient education.

On the first object, viz., school accommodation, I do not intend to say anything, except to state that very satisfactory progress has been made, and to express the conviction, which I have had for some years past, that

too much attention has been paid to the material development of the schools—and slight interest taken in the well-being of the living agent—to the detriment of the progress of the country—since it is true for all time: like master, like school.

The population of this province of the Dominion of Canada is now over 2,000,000, and by the last annual report (1881) of the Minister of Education, the whole number of school children is 484,224. From this number deduct one-seventh for those who are not likely to be found in the public elementary schools, and we have 415,049 as the number which should be taught in these schools. I may be allowed to express a doubt as to the accuracy of the returns in regard to the number of school children in Ontario. In Great Britain the number of school children between the ages of five and fourteen inclusive, forms about a sixth of the