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WILLIAM CROCKET, A.M.,

PRINCIPAL OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The passage of the "Common Schools Act of 1871" by the Legislature of New Brunswick was more than the introduction of a free, non-sectarian and national system of schools for the Province. It was an educational revolution. In all that relates to common schools, it was the beginning of a new order of things in New Brunswick. Of course, like every reform, the new system met with opposition. Compulsory assessment for schools was thought by many to be a terrible tyranny, until they came to see it in its true relations. The abolition of social and religious distinctions in connection with public education also fell athwart existing prejudices, and antagonism was the result. But while the inevitable, and in the end wholesome strife was going on around the standards of the Free School party, a great though silent reformation was in progress in the inner life and work of the schools. The benefits of superior text-books, a better classification of pupils, and the grading of schools soon began to be felt. The uniform certification of teachers upon revised standards of award gradually told upon the quality of work done. More than all, perhaps, the professional training required of every candidate for permanent license, under wise and careful direction, has shown itself more and more from year to year, in the improved discipline of schools and more enlightened methods of teaching. It is by the actual improvement visible in the condition of the schools, as much as by the soundness of the principles underlying the system, that opposition has been disarmed, and foes turned to friends.

The obligation of the profession and the public to the able Chief Superintendent, Theodore H. Rand, D.C.L., for the wise and progressive energy which has characterized the entire administration of the system, are well known to our readers. No member of the profession has more loyally and energetically co-operated in the work of educational reform than William Crocket, A.M., Principal of the Provincial Normal School. To his professional zeal, scholarly abilities and sound judgment, is very largely due that solid, internal let us say indomitable—growth which becomes every year more manifest to the intelligent observer. His instructions have aroused the latent energies of hundreds of young men and women, making of them students as well as teachers. His coun-

sels have guided them in solving the difficult problems of school management. Through his clear unfoldings of the principles of method, they have learned to educate as well as instruct.

Mr. Crocket was born at Brechin, in Forfarshire, Scotland, in 1832, and received his preparatory education in the Grammar School of that town. At the age of sixteen he was matriculated at King's College, Aberdeen, where he studied for two years, completing his collegiate course at the University of Glasgow in 1852. He took a respectable position, throughout the entire course, in Classics and Mathematics. During the vacations between the College sessions, he taught school or engaged as private tutor, thus acquiring his earliest experiences in the duties of his future profession. In the following year he entered the Established Church Normal School of Glasgow, and took a two years' course—the maximum time then allowed.

Mr. Crocket came to this country in 1856, to take charge of the Superior School at Campbelltown, N.B. Here he taught for five years, during one of which he also held the position of Inspector of Schools for the County of Restigouche. When the Presbyterian Academy was established at Chatham, in 1861, he was offered and accepted the position of Principal, which he held for about nine years. While thus engaged, his career as a teacher of teachers began,—a branch Training School for the teachers of the Northern Counties having been established at Chatham in 1867, with Mr. Crocket as Principal. The work of the Academy and that of the Training School were carried on conjointly. The latter was a branch of the Provincial Training School, at that time located in St. John. Upon the resignation of Mr. Wm.

Mills as Principal, in 1870, both the school at St. John and the Chatham Branch were closed; and Mr. Crocket was appointed Principal of the Provincial Training and Model School, then reopened at Fredericton. In 1877 the school moved into the spacious new edifice erected for its accommodation.

Mr. Crocket received the degree of A.M. from the University of New Brunswick in 1865. For some years he has been one of the Examiners for Degrees in that institution. Of pleasing address and winning manner in the class-room, Mr. Crocket's characteristics as a teacher are yet vigorous and well-defined. These very correctly appear in the following extracts from his address at the opening of the new building:

"The most earnest effort of the student-teacher should be directed,

