

of official life, we feel that in no case can the maxim be more truly applied than in yours,

Finis Coronat Opus.

The addresses having been read, Dr. Ryerson made a verbal reply to the following effect:—

MY CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND OF THE NORMAL AND MODEL SCHOOLS,—I am taken entirely by surprise; for among the last things that I had this day expected were the addresses which you have just read, and I am entirely unprepared to address to you the grateful remarks which I might have made under other circumstances. The arrival to me of three score years and ten—the highest period of existence which God has ordinarily granted to man—has produced in my own mind feelings of deep solemnity, and has awakened thoughts similar to those of commencing a new state of existence. Among the most pleasing recollections of my past life are my official associations with you; in which associations I have never regarded you as *employés* under me, but as sons, and I may say of daughters also, assisting me in a great and good work—and I can truly say that I have always endeavoured in the tone and character of my intercourse with you, to make you all feel as members of one family, in each of whose individual welfare I took parental interest. I have had no favourites; not one of you owes his or her position to any feelings of peculiar partiality on my part, but to your own virtues, qualifications and merits; and it is to me a source of unalloyed satisfaction that I have been enabled so to conduct myself towards you as to ensure your individual confidence, respect and good will. I derive also peculiar satisfaction from the reflection that, while I have required from every one of you a faithful discharge of your duties, I have had occasion in no single instance to administer reproof to any for impropriety or neglect of duty. I cannot expect always to occupy my present position. I do not desire any release from labour, though I sometimes desire a change of labour. But whether I remain at my present post for a longer or shorter period, it will be my aim in the future, as it has been in the past, to do all in my power to promote your individual success, comfort and usefulness. I regret beyond what I am able to express that I have not been able to accomplish for you all to which I believe your services and merits have given you a just claim; but I can assure you it has not been for any want of effort on my part. I know that from this establishment, in its administration, and from its Normal and Model Schools, an influence has gone forth which is felt in the remotest parts of the Province; and I trust that the salutary influence of the past will be found only a faint emblem of that which will be witnessed in the future throughout the length and breadth of the land. I pray that the Divine protection may continue over our work and over us individually; and while I most sincerely thank you for your kind congratulations, I feel no one circumstance more consoling, with the sense of advancing years, than the conscientiousness that after so many years of official relations and united labour, I enjoy your individual respect and good will.

3. EDUCATION RETURNS FOR THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The following educational returns were asked for by the House of Assembly during the present session:

Mr. Clarke (Wellington)—A return of the number of children attending the Public and High Schools of Ontario from 30th of June 1871 to 30th of June 1872; and of those attending private schools in so far as the same can be ascertained from the annual school returns; and of the number of children of school age in Ontario as reported in the annual returns of 1871.

Hon. E. B. Wood—That the Chief Superintendent of Education do with all convenient dispatch, lay before the House a return stating concisely:

1. The date of the establishment of the Normal and Model Schools in this Province.
2. The total outlay on *capital account* in respect of the said schools including the purchase of lands and every expenditure strictly chargeable to *capital account*.
3. The annual outlay since the establishing of the said schools including staff of teachers, superintendence, maintenance and every expenditure not charged to *capital account*.
4. The names of the persons in each year with their places of residence who have received instruction at the Normal School with the view of fitting themselves for teaching in this Province, and the average number of them who have made and are still making teaching their profession, and how many of such teachers are now teaching in the Province, and in what counties they are now teaching.

5. The average cost to the country, including interest at six per cent. on the said capital outlay, for the training of each teacher who has made teaching in this Province a permanent occupation.

Mr. S. C. Wood—Return of copies of all correspondence between any member of the Executive Council of this Province, the Council of Public Instruction, the Chief Superintendent of Education or other member of the council, since the passing of the Act 35 Vic., chap. 30 "making temporary provision as to the regulations of the Council of Public Instruction", and since the date of the last return from the Educational Department.

Mr. S. C. Wood—Return for a copy of the regulations of the Council of Public Instruction, and other instructions relating to the admission of pupils to the High Schools or Collegiate Institutes.

2. A copy of the Order in Council suspending or disallowing these regulations, and a copy of any instructions issued by Government to boards of trustees on this subject.

3. The number of pupils admitted to each High School and Collegiate institute since the suspension of these regulations, the name of the schools and institutes, and of the examiner and the subjects on which the candidates were examined, the extent of the examination in these subjects, and the number of marks obtained by these pupils.

4. Copies of any reports to the Education Department, or to the Government in regard to the examinations and admissions from inspectors, trustees or other parties, and copies of any correspondence or reports throwing light upon the operation of the law since the date of the suspension of the regulations on the subject.

Mr. S. McCall—A return stating the number of scholars attending the Normal School for the purpose of qualifying as school teachers for the years 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872 respectively. Also the largest number of pupils the present Normal School is capable of accommodating throughout a session thereof.

Mr. Cook—A return of the number of first, second and third-class certificates granted to school teachers during the year eighteen hundred and seventy-two; also the number of persons who have made application for certificates and have been unable to obtain them during the same year.

Mr. M. S. McDonald—A return for copies for all Orders in Council (if any) and correspondence (if any) in reference to the establishment in Ontario, of any additional Normal Schools.

II. Education in Various Countries.

1. AN ACT TO COMPEL CHILDREN TO ATTEND SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN.

SECTION 1. *The People of the State of Michigan enact*, That every parent or guardian in the State of Michigan having control and charge of children between the ages of eight and fourteen years, shall be required to send such children to a public school for a period of at least twelve weeks in each year, at least six weeks of which shall be consecutive, unless such child or children are excused from such attendance by the board of the school district in which such parents or guardians reside, upon its being shown to their satisfaction that his bodily or mental condition has been such as to prevent his attendance at school or application to study for the period required, or that such child or children are taught in a private school, or at home, in such branches as are usually taught in primary schools, or have already acquired the ordinary branches of learning taught in the public school; *Provided*, In case a public school shall not be taught for three months during the year, within two miles by the nearest travelled road, of the residence of any person within the school district, he shall not be liable for the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the director of every school district, and president of every school board within this State, to cause to be posted three notices of this law in the most public places in such district, or published in one newspaper in the township for three weeks, during the month of August in each year, the expense of such publication to be paid out of the funds of said district.

SEC. 3. In case any parent or guardian shall fail to comply with the provisions of this law, said parent or guardian shall be liable to a fine of not less than five dollars or more than ten dollars for the first offence, nor less than ten or more than twenty dollars for the second and every subsequent offence; said fine shall be collected by the director of said district in the name of the district, in an action of debt or on the case, and when collected shall be paid to the assessor of the district in which the defendant resided when the offence was committed, and by him accounted for the same as money raised for school purposes.