



THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
LONDON, ONT.

THE old Grammar School of London, a very good representation of which is given above, was situated at the southwest corner of the Court House square, which square served as a play ground for the scholars. The building itself had been erected for a jail and Court House, and had done duty in both capacities, we understand, during the troublous times of the rebellion, and subsequently.

The school was first taught, but only for a short time, by a Mr. Wright. The old building is more closely connected with the name of Mr., afterwards the Reverend, Benjamin Bayley, now gone to his rest, and with that of Mr. James C Thompson, the assistant teacher, who is still, we believe, living in London.

Mr. Bayley was born in or near Dublin in the year 1805, and emigrated to Canada in 1836. He came out to farm and first settled near the village of Orillia, on Lake Simcoe, close to where the Rev. Mr. Brough (afterwards Archdeacon) was also farming. In 1839 Mr. Brough and he went to Manitoulin Island, the former as clergyman, and the latter as teacher to the settlers and Indians there. Mr. Brough left the island about the year 1840 and settled in the township of London, near the city, where he labored till his death, and it was at his suggestion that Mr. Bayley applied in 1841 for the Grammar School, and was appointed to it. Among the trustees at the time were Rev. Dr. Cronyn, afterwards first Bishop of Huron, John Wilson, afterwards Mr. Justice John Wilson, and Rev. Wm Proudfoot, father of Rev. John Proudfoot and Mr.

Justice Proudfoot. For some twenty years Mr. Bayley and his assistants taught there, after which, on the amalgamation of the Grammar and Common School boards, the old building having served its purpose, a removal took place to the Central School. The assistant taught in the large room up stairs, classes being sent from time to time to Mr. Bayley's room downstairs to the left hand as one entered the front door. Here obtained the old custom of "head" and "foot," with the "next," "next," "next," till the lucky one produced the right answer and marched upwards. A careful record was kept of the standing of the boys in each class, and read out each day, so that the boys might know their places. The writer remembers well that sometimes a question would be passed on from head to foot and answered correctly by the foot boy, when, amid murmurs of applause from his classmates, and with a gentle smile from the head master, he would march from one end of the class to the other. Corporal punishment was, in those times, the order of the day, and some, no doubt, have recollections of the old red rawhide, which, however, was never administered with undue severity. In the early days it was a boys' school only.

Mr. Bayley used to open and close the school in the large upper room, calling the roll regularly, morning and evening. Two of the same name were distinguished by the terms "senior" and "junior"—more than two "primus," "secundus," "tertius," etc. Throughout the management of the school the healthy, robust rules of long ago were faithfully carried out.

On the union of the Grammar and Public Schools, the school lost many of the distinctive features which had belonged to it, but Mr. Bayley still retained the head mastership. He was always, as a layman, ready to assist in Church work. The late Archdeacon Brough and the late Bishop Cronyn both received much aid from him in their respective parishes. About the year 1860 he was ordained, and was attached to the staff of St. Paul's Cathedral, of London the less, and subsequently assisted at Christ Church, in the southern portion of the city.