

In 1896 he was elected to the Directorate of the National Association of Elocutionists, an honour conferred for the first time in the history of the organization upon a Canadian.

The discipline and instruction of Professor Stephen have been of very great advantage to his pupils, not only in their acquisition of the expected gifts of elocutionary training, but, more remarkable in the development of that intellectual perspicacity and of that moral poise which underlie the finished art.

Perhaps the most original and effective feature of Professor Stephen's instruction has been his criticism of the efforts of his pupils. Utterly frank and unsparing, but as kindly, as encouraging and as stimulative as they were keenly discriminative, his criticisms have been eagerly sought by those whom he had taught, even after they have entered upon the public functions for which their academic work was preparatory.

I well know that did occasion offer, a chorus of appreciation would rise from men of every profession--Members of Parliament, College Professors, Preachers, Teachers, Lawyers, Public Readers and others, who during the past twenty years have enjoyed the privilege of his teaching, whether privately or in some of the more important educational institutions of Montreal:--in McGill University; in the Diocesan, Presbyterian, Congregational or Wesleyan College; in the College of the Immaculate Conception; in Loyola College; in the High School of Montreal; in the Girls' High School or in the Montreal School of Elocution.

Professor Stephen is in the line of direct and legitimate descent, in both time and work, from what may be called the origin of scientific elocution, the successive links of the chain being the celebrated Dr. James Rush; Dr. Jonathan Barber; John Andrew and John P. Stephen.
