

JOURNAL OF

Upper



EDUCATION,

Canada.

VOL. XIII.

TORONTO: AUGUST, 1860.

No. 8.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

	PAGE
I. RECENT EDUCATIONAL SPEECHES IN ENGLAND AND CANADA—(1) The Right Hon. Lord Brougham, LL.D., Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh. (2) Sir David Brewster, LL.D., Principal of the University of Edinburgh. (3) The Right Hon. Lord Wrottesley, President of the British Association for 1860 and 1861. (4) Cornelius Felton, Esq., LL.D., President of Harvard University. (5) The Right Rev. Dr. Strachan, Lord Bishop of Toronto. (6) The Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada. (7) The Rev. S. S. Nellis, M.A., President of the University of Victoria College	113 119
II. SPEECHES AT THE MODEL GRAMMAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION	121
III. TORONTO GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS—Speeches delivered at a Public Meeting	121
IV. PAPERS ON PRACTICAL EDUCATION—(1) Competitive Examinations—An Example for City and Town Schools. (2) On the Exercises and Amusements of Boys and Girls. (3) Aid to Female Schools at the Cape of Good Hope. (4) The Holidays, a great boon	122 125
V. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES—No. 17. Sir Brenton Haliburton. No. 18. The Hon. John Molson. No. 19. James McDonald, Esq.	125 126
VI. MISCELLANEOUS—(1) Nah-nee-bahwe-gua. (2) The Power of the Voice over Children. (3) Affection as an Engine of Education	126 127
VII. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE	127
VIII. DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES	128

RECENT EDUCATIONAL SPEECHES IN ENGLAND AND CANADA.

1. THE RIGHT HON. LORD BROUGHAM, LL.D.

Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.

ADVANTAGES OF CONCENTRATING ATTENTION ON ONE PURSUIT.

Though the acquisition of general knowledge is a primary duty, and the confining our study within the narrow limits of one or two branches enfeebles the mind, impairing its powers, and even preventing an entire mastery of the selected branches, yet it is on every account highly expedient, indeed all but absolutely necessary, to single out one branch as the main object of attention. The great lights of the world afford few, if any, exceptions, to this rule. Had Barrow's professional studies and his attention to the eloquence of the pulpit not interfered with his mathematical pursuits, he would probably—Fermal, but for his official duties and his general speculations, would certainly—have made the great discovery of the calculus, to which both had so nearly approached. What might not have been expected from the bold and happy conjectures of Franklin under the guidance of the inductive method, so familiar to him in all its rigour, had he not devoted his life to the more important cause of his country and her liberties? Priestly's discoveries, all but accidental, however important, were confined in their extent and perversely misapprehended in their results by the controversies, religious and political, which engrossed his attention through life. Descartes, instead of the one great step which the mathematics owe him, was destined to make vast progress in physical science, and not to leave his name known by a mere baseless hypothesis, had he not been seduced by metaphysical speculation; and Leibnitz, but for the same seduction, joined to his legal

labours, would assuredly have come near the Newtonian system in dynamics, as he had preferred a just claim to share in its analytical renown. On the other hand, mark the happy results of concentrated power in Bacon wisely abstaining from the application of his own philosophy when he found that previous study had not fitted him for physical inquiries; Newton, avoiding all distraction, save when he deemed his highest duties required some intermission of his habitual labours; nay, had Leonardo da Vinci indulged in the investigations of natural sciences, for which he possessed so remarkable a talent and has left such felicitous anticipations, his name as one of the first of artists would have been unknown; and had Voltaire prosecuted the study of chemistry, in which he was so near making two of the greatest discoveries, we should never have had the tragedies, the romances, and the general history, the foundations of his fame. But the same principle applies as well to active life as to the pursuits of science and letters. Every one should have a special occupation, the main object of his attention, to which all others are subordinate, and all more or less referable. With most men this is inevitable, because they are engaged in professional employment; but all ought to single out some pursuit, whether speculative or active, as the chief occupation of life. Nothing conduces more to comfort and happiness—nothing is a greater safeguard against the seductions of indolence, or of less innocent, perhaps not less hurtful indulgence. Nothing gives a greater relish and zest to the subordinate pursuits.

SUPERIORITY OF GREEK TO ROMAN ORATORY AS A MODEL.

The study of Attic oratory is one matter which cannot be too strongly pressed upon the pupil; that of the ancient analysis is another. The tendency of mathematical studies in the present day is to disregard the Greek geometry; that of classical studies is well to cultivate Greek learning, but rather to exalt the poets above the orators. The immeasurable superiority of the Greek to the Roman oratory is not only evinced by the devotion of the greatest master of the latter to the Attic models, by his constant study of them, by his not ceasing, even in advanced life, to practise Greek declamation, by his imitating—nay, translating from them, in his finest passages; but one consideration is decisive on this head—the Greek oratory is incomparably better adapted to our modern debating, business-like habits; and while it may be truly affirmed that, with all this excellence, hardly one of Cicero's orations could even in parts ever be borne either by the senate or the forum in our times, there is hardly one