

From the various replies to addresses our readers can readily judge for themselves that Lord Dufferin has regarded with approbation all the more prominent parts of our educational system that have come under his notice. It will be seen that his Lordship, in the course of those replies, gives utterance to views and sentiments from which all concerned in educational work may derive the greatest encouragement, as well as instruction. Institutions of every grade, from the Universities and Normal Schools down to the Common or Elementary Schools, and those belonging to the different denominations of Religion and the different nationalities, have been discussed or touched upon in the most gracious, as well as graceful, and felicitous manner that can be conceived. No advocate of the claims of Universities could more happily dispose of important questions relative to the requirements of University education, nor could any accomplished and experienced schoolmaster more skilfully or usefully put forward the essential points concerned in the daily practical work and general management of Schools, than His Excellency has done, without in the least appearing to deem it derogatory to discuss even the minor details involved. To the teachers and to those about to go forth as teachers from the Normal Schools, he has conveyed counsel and sympathy and manifested an acquaintance with the nature of their duties such as scarcely any one but an enthusiastic practical teacher could be expected to manifest. To the scholars, even the youngest children, he has spoken in the most beautiful, simple, and encouraging language, instantly winning their hearts and causing them to look upon him as upon one whom they recognize to be their sincere friend.

What a vast amount of comfort and encouragement may not the friends of education generally derive from the example of Lord Dufferin, and from what he has said on those various occasions!

Representing the Sovereign, and thus officially and socially being of the most exalted rank in the Dominion, he tells the Heads and Professors of our Universities "I can assure you, with the most perfect truth, that there is no University in any part of Her Majesty's dominions which the Queen does not regard with interest and solicitude"; at the same time he animates every hard working student of classical lore to persevere in spite of the occasional discouragement encountered from those who wholly neglect such pursuits under the erroneous idea that they are less necessary or suitable in this utilitarian age, saying "I regard classical education as the backbone of a liberal education—while the prosperity of the Dominion almost entirely depends on its inhabitants using every exertion to develop its material resources, the fact of the whole population being engaged in these necessary occupations and in the accumulation of wealth, renders it all the more a matter of vital importance that the purely intellectual life of the community should be ennobled, embellished, disciplined, and refined by the wisdom, the poetry, the wit, the experience, and the philosophy of the classic ages"; to the University students

at large His Excellency says every thing that is calculated to influence them for good in behalf of their country and in their own personal interest; he reminds them of the opportunities they now enjoy of qualifying themselves to become worthy successors of those who at present wield the destinies of the Young Dominion, as the glorious birth-right which in due time they must inherit in the possession of a country extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific "whose inhabitants are as free as the air they breathe", and of the fact that there is no single prize in life worthy of a man's ambition to which they may not aspire if they will only turn to account their faculties and present opportunities with industry, intelligence and perseverance—closing his address to University Students with the stirring appeal "There is not one of you here who may not rise to the highest offices of the State, who may not render your name illustrious for all time to come, who may not engrave for yourself on the annals of your country an imperishable record."

His Excellency does not omit to refer in suitable terms to the exemplary merit and patriotism of benefactors through whose munificence alone can adequate provision be made for the establishment of Universities and the accomplishment of University objects. After referring to the founder of McGill College and the continued munificence of other citizens of Montreal towards its equipment and maintenance, his Lordship explained in forcible terms that not only those benefactors themselves merit the highest esteem of the community, but that their conduct will ever reflect the greatest credit on their memory and on their descendants, saying "In this country hereditary distinctions do not become so completely a part of the social system as in Europe, but I will venture to say that the very fact of any man having connected his name so honourably with an Institution of this kind will ever prove to his descendants as legitimate a source of ancestral pride as any that have originated in the Letters Patent of a Sovereign".

On the occasions of His Excellency's visits to Educational Institutions of lower grade than Universities he gave expression to an equally deep interest in the success and welfare of all concerned. To their founders and managers he spoke as one conversant with the responsibilities, perplexities and anxieties which must have been experienced prior to the attainment of the present condition of efficiency of their establishments.

He told the members of the McGill Normal School that it would be "impossible to exaggerate" the responsibility resting upon them. With respect to their relations to their young pupils, exceedingly useful and seasonable advice was given of which we can here cite only one remarkable passage.

"Now what I would venture to ask you from time to time to impress upon your pupils is this, that although upon the one hand there is no quality more creditable than self-respect, yet, on the other hand the very idea of self-respect excludes self-assertion; and I say this the more readily because