

PROFESSOR WILSON'S ADDRESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—The gratifying duty again devolves on me, as your President, of welcoming the friends of education to this, the fifth annual convention of the teachers of Upper Canada. Young as our educational system is; young indeed as is the country for which it is provided: it may be questioned if we are not to blame for undue tardiness, rather than for any excess of zeal, in thus seeking to organise the teachers of Canada into a deliberative body, for the consideration of all questions affecting their profession. Certain it is, at any rate, that the time is fully ripe for such conjoint action; and it affords me no slight pleasure to congratulate the members of this association on the evidences of its growing strength and efficiency as an adjunct of our comprehensive educational system.

The training and acquirements of teachers; the selection and sanctioning of text books; the apportionment of school funds; the organization of union, model, and central high schools; and the powers vested in superintendents, inspectors, and trustees: these and many similar questions are annually brought under the consideration of city, county, or provincial boards; or submitted anew to the Legislative Assembly of the Province. Deeply as each one of you is interested in such questions, your individual opinion can carry little weight; but it is scarcely possible to over-estimate your influence as a united body; and I trust the time is not far distant when every teacher of Upper Canada will consider it his duty no less than his privilege to be a member of this association. With hearty co-operation on the part of all; and your deliberations conducted with the prudence and wisdom becoming an assembly of educated men: your decisions cannot fail to carry weight, and to influence the future course of legislative action. Union is the source of strength throughout the whole social fabric. National and Friendly Societies, Boards of Trade, Agricultural Associations, and other kindred organizations, suffice to show how thoroughly this is recognised in every sphere of life; but no class of men stands so much in need of it as your own. The duties of your profession keep you apart. Your battles are fought, and your triumphs achieved single handed; and too frequently, when the best interests of the profession are brought into jeopardy by some overbearing official, or mercenary board of Trustees, the victim succumbs to their injustice without even a consciousness of sympathy; much less with the hearty support of his brethren. Every teacher, moreover, experiences difficulties in the progress of his work; and the more thoroughly he is gifted with all the natural and acquired requisites of a good teacher, the more frequently will he find his practice fall short of the high standard of excellency