

But, Sir, I am warned that I must be brief, and I will only say in conclusion that it has afforded me much pleasure to be present to-day to witness the commencement of a building which I have little doubt will prove a valuable addition to the educational work of the country.

Speech of Hon. A. M. Cochran :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen : Although it would be quite out of place for me to attempt to address this audience at any length, after the many able and eloquent speeches from the gentlemen who have preceded me, yet I feel, as one of the commissioners appointed to erect the first Normal School building, it is, perhaps, incumbent upon me to make a few remarks in connection with the establishment of that Institution, and to contrast the prospects of that day in an educational point of view with the present.

The act to establish the first Normal School passed the Legislature, amidst much opposition, by a bare majority, in 1854. During the summer of that year a commission was appointed to carry out the designs of the Legislature, of which our talented and highly popular Governor was Secretary, and also an active and leading member. After much care and caution the site was selected and lands purchased at what, compared with its present value, would be merely a nominal price. The buildings were erected and in 1855 the first Normal School in Nova Scotia was opened, in presence of the present Lieutenant Governor, Sir William Young, Judge Wilkins, the Hon. Hugh Bell, Andrew McKinlay, Esq., and many other warm friends of free and liberal education. My late lamented friend, Dr. Forrester, was appointed first Principal, and under his energetic management the Institution flourished with such beneficial results, that even those who were most opposed to its establishment were ere long forced to acknowledge its usefulness, and the wisdom of its founders. Dr. Forrester was an enthusiastic, laborious and faithful educator of the people, and spent a large portion of his active life in this service, and when I consider the injustice which was done him by his claims being overlooked in the appointment of his subordinate to the office of Superintendent of education, I blush for my country which failed to recognize his merits, and unhesitatingly assert that a great injustice was done to the man who had done more than any other for the cause of education in Nova Scotia.* He still continued his

* NOTE.—The above remarks are not intended as any reflection on the gentleman who succeeded Dr. Forrester.