

PROFESSOR WICKSON'S ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,—While I am deeply sensible of the honour which you, through your officers have conferred upon me, in placing my name among the number of those who were invited to address you. I cannot but feel a degree of embarrassment in responding at this moment to the call of the President. When I consider the abilities, and reputation of those whom you are accustomed to hear from this platform, gentlemen of wide-spread renown for attainments in literature and science, for the possession of eminent oratorical powers, and when I reflect upon what is due to such an audience as is here convened, where it is befitting that nothing be produced, *nisi perfectum ingenio elaboratum industria*. I feel that it would have argued unpardonable arrogance, and temerity to have sought in any way the position in which I now stand, so far, however, was I from so doing that I shrank with becoming diffidence from a task which I judged myself inadequate satisfactorily to perform, but which the kind urgency of the Committee induced me to undertake.

It affords me, Mr. President, great pleasure to meet the teachers of the Province assembled once more in annual convention.

It is exceedingly gratifying, to see again the faces and forms of friends, whom we knew in by-gone years, and in different scenes and circumstances, whose intellectual development, and whose advancement in life, we have marked with the deepest interest. The presence of large numbers possessed and swayed by common sympathies, animated by the same hopes, toiling under similar difficulties, encountering like obstacles, always produces an elevation of spirit, a quickened pulsation, a buoyancy of feeling of such influence, I am not unconscious; but I rejoice chiefly, because, I see in this Provincial association of Teachers, the probable means of greatly advancing the interests of those who are engaged in the responsible work of Education; nor of them only, but of the inhabitants of the Province generally, by the increased diffusion of knowledge, by the improved method and means of moral and intellectual culture.

Teachers will, individually, receive material benefit from meeting together to consider and discuss matters pertaining to the grand pursuit of their lives. They will be encouraged by