

'He that goeth forth bearing precious seed and weeping, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, and bringing His sheaves with Him.'

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

I have thus, as stated to Your Excellency last year, again entered somewhat fully into an exposition and justification of the various new features of our System of Public Instruction, which have been embodied in the "School Law Improvement Act of 1871." I have felt it the more necessary to furnish, in this Report, the many friends of our School System with the facts and reasonings illustrative of the necessity for the recent changes in our School Law, which influenced me in endeavouring to embody in our School Law of 1871, certain great principles which underlie and are common to every really comprehensive System of National Education. In fact, no intelligent person can carefully read over the extracts which I have given of the views and proceedings of Educationists in other Countries without coming to the conclusion, that, to have done less than we have done, would be to place this Province in the rear rather than abreast of other Educating Countries. They would have felt that I should have been recreant to my duty had I failed to strongly press upon the Government and Legislature the necessity of giving their highest sanction to the recommendations which I have made with a view to improve the School Law of this Province,—recommendations which were founded, (as I have shown in this Report), upon the knowledge and experience of the most accomplished Educationists of the present day.

After nearly thirty years' service in promoting what I believed to be the best interests of our School System, I am more than ever profoundly impressed with the conviction of the correctness of the views on these subjects which I expressed in my preliminary "Report on a System of Public Instruction for Upper Canada," which I submitted to the Government in 1846. It has been the purpose and aim of my life, since I assumed the direction of the Education Department, to give practical effect to these views, and, with the Divine favour, to secure and perpetuate to my Native Country the inestimable blessings of a free, comprehensive, Christian Education for every child in the land.

TORONTO, October, 1872.

EGERTON RYERSON.