

general enjoyment I might say to general morality also, for all of us know and can understand how much immorality springs from that sheer craving for excitement of some kind which is apt to arise in the minds of impressionable persons engaged in monotonous employment, and with no sufficient mental occupation.—(Hear, hear.) I have spoken of instructions of this kind as mainly intended to give pleasure of a reasonable and respectable kind. I think that is practically their chief, though it is far from being their only function. Real and earnest students are not very many, numerically speaking, in any rank of life,—(hear, hear.); and if, on the one hand, the greater spread of instruction tends to multiply the number of such, still, on the other hand, it must not be forgotten that the demands of practical life are in the present day more absorbing than ever they were before. Still, of real and earnest students you will have some; and it is hard to say how much labor may be spared to such men by giving them access at once and easily to the works on the subjects in which they are interested."

It has often struck us that much valuable time is sometimes wasted by sober and ingenious working-men in inventing what has already been invented; a circumstance of which they are ignorant, but which when once discovered almost overwhelms them with disappointment. In reference to this class, and a remedy for their misapplication of time and talent, his Lordship says:

"So also with regard to a very numerous class and not a wealthy one; I mean inventors or would-be inventors. They, by referring to the specifications of the Patent Office, which, I presume you have, here, may see what is new, and what is not new; and they may be saved from that fate which to my knowledge, has not unfrequently befallen ingenious and self-taught men, that of inventing over again, of re-discovering, of course to their great disappointment when they find that what they have produced was well known already."

He has great confidence in the utility of the lending part of the library scheme, and says:

"I have greater faith in the practical utility of this than in any other part of the scheme. There are many persons who, for various reasons, are not likely to frequent a reading room. Something their clothes are not good enough; some live too far off, and think they cannot spare the time; others, women especially, feel a certain shyness in coming alone into a crowded hall. I don't attach much weight to any of those reasons, but still they will operate on a certain number of people. There is also this to consider: however largely a reading-room may be used, its space is, by the nature of the case, limited, whereas there is no limit whatever to the circulation of books among the population when those books are given out to be read at home. I do not know whether it is possible, but if it be so, I think it will be very desirable, that works should be lent not merely to individuals, but also to all such clubs,

or institutions, or associations, as are willing to use them, of course the same security being taken for their proper treatment and restoration as is taken when they are lent to individuals. The last thing I shall say is that I don't think we ought to be annoyed or disappointed if it turns out here as it does in other places and very probably may here, that the largest demand is for works of fiction. (Applause.) Of course one should regret it if the demand were confined exclusively to such works. We all sympathize in the wish expressed by the Mayor that you may have in this institution a really valuable collection, for purposes of reference, of standard works,—a collection which may not be unworthy of one of the greatest of English towns. But if it should turn out that the most popular works for general circulation are works of fiction, I don't think that it is any reason for disappointment, or for saying your scheme is a failure. I never understood why it is so much the practice on occasions of this kind for educated men, who themselves enjoy a good novel as well as anybody—(hear, hear),—to disparage its popularity. I never heard that, as a general rule among the educated classes, men after a hard day's work were much in the habit of sitting down to pursue abstruse historical inquiries, or to solve mathematical problems. Of course there will be a certain number of men whose love of knowledge and science is genuine and sincere. Provide by all means for them; but what I say is, don't be ashamed, don't think you are yielding too much to the weakness of humanity, if you make large and liberal provision for those, who, in frequenting an institution of this kind, look almost wholly for innocent and not wholly useless enjoyment. (Hear, hear.) Of all kinds of literature I take it works of fiction are those in which the greatest and most marked improvement has taken place within the last fifty years; and as studies of life and manners they may, in their way, be quite as useful as some works of a higher and more pretentious character. (Hear, hear.) Then don't let us grudge amusement to those who come here solely for that purpose. Let us be satisfied if it is harmless, as in 999 cases out of a thousand we may be sure it will be. Life is to many of us engaged in monotonous and mechanical employments a dull and common-place affair; and with our English climate we are none the worse, but all the better, morally as well as materially, for a little sunshine."

There is no doubt much truth in the above remarks by His Lordship relative to works of fiction. The human mind, especially during youth, does demand some sacrifice to the imagination and fancy; and if in these works the pictures presented be pure, the sentiments sound and elevating, and the tone of the composition moral, with the tacit, if not explicit, acknowledgment of a yet higher influence, it were foolish to proscribe them. The evil to be guarded against is that they shall not be allowed to occupy too much of the leisure of life, and, by being indulged in to excess, enervate, instead of refresh, the mind.—*Montreal Witness.*

3. PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN UPPER CANADA. 1853—1864.

In accordance with our annual custom, we give in this Number of the *Journal of Education* the following full and interesting Statement of the Number and Classification of Public Library and Prize Books sent out from the Depository of the Upper Canada Educational Department, from 1853 to 1864 inclusive.

No. of Volumes sent out during the year.	Total Volumes of Library Books	History.	Zoology and Physiology.	Botany.	Phenomena.	Physical Science.	Geology.	Natural Philosophy and Manufactures.	Chemistry.	Agricultural Chemistry.	Practical Agriculture.	Literature.	Voyages, &c.	Biography.	Tales & Sketches Practical Life.	Teachers' Library.	Prize Books.	Grand Total Library and Prize Books.
1853.....	21922	4158	1602	287	906	526	234	940	182	192	807	2694	1141	2917	5178	208	.....	21922
1854.....	66711	10633	5532	1030	2172	1351	686	4780	629	321	3235	5764	4350	6393	19307	578	.....	66711
1855.....	28659	5475	2053	818	558	663	200	1808	207	76	1452	3361	2926	3081	6049	432	.....	28659
1856.....	18669	2498	652	118	397	287	77	660	55	31	418	1523	1019	1844	3832	258	.....	18669
1857.....	29833	5295	1763	321	632	817	195	1729	134	67	1257	2391	2253	3516	9219	244	.....	29833
1858.....	7587	1567	503	86	152	98	61	276	27	2	186	713	843	744	2245	84	.....	7587
1859.....	9308	1670	551	136	209	192	130	432	87	18	300	1169	714	1127	2401	172	.....	9308
1860.....	9072	1561	475	144	223	200	100	526	61	17	339	852	797	1115	2520	142	.....	9072
1861.....	6488	1273	302	59	101	72	64	223	36	2	172	601	760	880	1826	117	.....	6488
1862.....	5599	927	244	45	99	48	75	211	45	24	165	412	661	830	1706	112	.....	5599
1863.....	6274	707	304	42	97	80	67	282	26	6	202	547	652	864	2286	112	.....	6274
1864.....	3239	567	188	11	47	38	27	129	7	..	87	315	281	430	1107	55	.....	3239
Totals.....	208361	36331	14119	2597	5593	4367	1866	11996	1446	756	8620	20342	16397	23741	57676	2514	165981	874342

Deduct volumes returned for exchange, &c. 616

Volumes sent to Mechanics' Institutes, &c, not included in the above..... 8293

Grand Total Library Books, &c., despatched up to 31st December, 1864 382019