

The Committee would here beg to suggest a few considerations to the serious and solemn attention of the Society and the friends of Education generally.—The Society have, in the face of many difficulties, succeeded by unremitted labors and liberal contributions—aided also by the contributions of the public—in establishing an Institution capable of affording to the youth of our Province such instruction as will fit them for the discharge of the ordinary duties of life, and for most, if not all of the higher duties of civil, political and religious stations, and, basing these instructions upon a moral and religious foundation, they have hoped to render them in some good degree instrumental in the promoting of piety and true virtue. These labors have been acknowledged by the Legislature of the Province, and that body has given the most gratifying earnest of their willingness to foster and co-operate with you in your benevolent undertaking. They have recognised the necessity of an institution such as you have established, and its adaptation to become of great utility to the Province—for indeed its necessity must be apparent to every one in any degree acquainted with the moral and intellectual wants of the Provincial community; and, perhaps, this institution comes as near to meeting those wants as any that could be devised: it is founded on the most liberal principles—it knows no distinction of sects and interferes in no way with religious belief or practices—and while established by one denomination and, for the sake of preserving harmony in its operations, is placed more particularly under their control, it must be remembered that they reserve no privileges to themselves except—if it may be necessary to state this exception—the formation of a theological class expressly for young men designed to enter into the ministry of their denomination, but holds out to all alike the advantages of moral and intellectual instruction. In proof of the liberal character which the institution has sustained it is only necessary to refer to the fact that children of parents belonging to the different denominations in the Province have been there receiving instruction since its first establishment.

Now all these exertions must become fruitless of their end if they are not appreciated by the community and the advantages they are adapted to afford are not embraced. The naked walls of a Seminary and the bare mechanism of a school can do nothing alone; they have no constraining power to bring the children of the people within their wholesome influence any more than the Bible has to promote the cause of christianity if suffered to remain on our shelves unread and unmeditated upon. The stone must be first brought from the quarry before the chisel of the sculptor can fashion it into form and beauty, and were there no material to be found on which to work, all the skill and power of the first artist would be lost. So unless children are brought to the school to be instructed and to participate in the benefits it is calculated to convey, the object in view by the Institution will not be gained and it will become useless, not on account of any defect in itself, but on account of the indifference of the community to the blessings it places within their reach.