

ADDRESS TO J. B. DIXON, A. M.

Below we publish an address presented, some time since, to the Principal of the Colborne Grammar School by his pupils.

TO J. B. DIXON, A. M., HEAD MASTER
OF COLBORNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Respected Teacher,—We, the pupils of the Colborne Grammar School, who have been under your tuition during the last half year, desire to express our approval of, and perfect satisfaction with the efficient manner, in which you have discharged the laborious duties of the high and honorable position which you occupy; and indeed we feel the greater confidence in doing this, as we know that you have passed the various stages of mental effort and intellectual discipline, which have been necessary to qualify you for the exalted station, the functions of which you have so satisfactorily performed.

We are aware that there are many trials and vexations connected with the faithful discharge of your duties, and we often wonder how you can have as much patience with us as you manifest; and while we feel a desire to express our regret for the negligence, irregularities, and backwardness, which we have often evinced in pursuing our studies, we at the same time desire to offer our sincere thanks and deepest regard for the kindness which you have always manifested towards us.

As regards the ability which you have manifested in conducting the numerous and difficult studies, which have of late occupied your attention, we beg leave to offer our deepest respects, and we cannot but congratulate you on the success which has attended your efforts.

By you we have been shown that a man may be learned, yet not pedantic; wise, yet not ostentatious; strict, yet not rigorous; and commanding, yet not haughty; and possessing that affability of manner, ease of action, and energetic spirit, which have ever signalized and honored your name as a Teacher, and have procured for yourself the sincere affection and constant regard of the students of this Institution.

And now since the term is about to close, and many of us are to be separated from you, and from one another, and our vacant places are to be filled by others, realizing that in all probability we will never all meet again, if we may be allowed to express the feelings of those who are about to leave this School, endeared to them by a thousand ties, we would say

that they are those of the deepest gratitude, mingled with melancholy regret and sadness.

With respect to those that are to fill these vacant places, we only say that we hope they will be such as will more obediently and zealously follow your instructions and example.

And now, in conclusion, we feel a desire to express to you our kindest wishes and sincerest hopes for the happiness and prosperity of that future which now so promisingly dawns upon you. May your path, through the varying scenes of this dramatic existence, be constantly lighted by the ever refulgent star of hope, continually strewn by the constant fragrance of the never fading flowers of pure intelligence and moral worth, which we hope may render your life one continual scene of never changing happiness, unvarying peace, unsullied joy.

J. L. SPAFFORD,
B. BRISBIN,
GEORGE M. GRIER,
F. J. McMILLAN,
W. R. BURNHAM,
J. C. CLARKE,
IDA POWERS,
MARGARET LUTMAN,
CHARLOTTE C. BURNELL,
SARAH SIMMONS,
&c., &c., &c.

THE HEAD MASTER'S REPLY TO THE STUDENTS OF THE COLBORNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

My Dear Students,—In reply to your kind Address, I wish to offer a few remarks. To every Teacher who is heartily engaged in his work, it must be a source of extreme pleasure to know that in his arduous labors he is assisted by the sympathies and aided by the co-operation of his students. The relations existing between Teacher and Scholar are close and sacred. In former times these relations were such as exist between master and slave, or between lord and vassal; now they are more nearly allied to those which bind in their hallowed and magic embrace the kind parent and the affectionate child.

To be convinced that I have done my duty is, I assure you, a sufficient reward for all my toils in the school-room; to realize that I labor not in vain gives me very great pleasure, but to know that my efforts to train the nobler powers of the immortal mind are duly appreciated and warmly seconded by you, fills me with a loftier and nobler enthusiasm and nerves me for the future contest of life.

I am well aware that he who takes upon himself to discharge the sacred duties of

an instructor has need of an extreme degree of patience, and ought to possess a heart overflowing with genuine kindness, and actuated by the purest motives; and unless he does his utmost to inspire those under his care with confidence in his integrity and good will, his life cannot fail to be one of intense anguish and keenest grief. If, as you intimate, I have exercised some small degree of patience and been moved by feelings of kindness in my actions towards you, I have only, to some extent succeeded in doing what I have for many years attempted to accomplish. From my earliest days I have been of the opinion that Schools are generally governed in a wrong manner, that the halls of learning are too frequently degraded to a level with the military drill, or converted into flogging establishments, to which every youth who possessed the spirit of noble independence common to the best of our race, bent his unwilling steps in anguish and disgust. But in my short intercourse with the world, I have ever found that kind actions and encouraging words make their way to the hardest heart, and that youth are more effectively controlled by gentle means than by harsh and domineering treatment. The example of the great and self-sacrificing Wicliffe, and of the benevolent Harvey, commends itself to the best judgment and purest affections of every Teacher.

This Institution is yet in its infancy. What it is destined to become depends on many circumstances; but judging from what it has accomplished during the past year, from the actual knowledge which I have of the people of Colborne, and from the well known fact that the youth of this village and neighborhood are not inferior to any in the Province, I can see only a brilliant future radiant with hope and usefulness opening up before us; and I can assure you that as long as I have the honor and the happiness to preside over its destinies, I shall not fail to exert all my powers to render it equal to the best Institution of its kind in this rapidly advancing Province.

I fondly hope that the day is not far distant when our Legislature, actuated by enlarged and statesmanlike views, shall see the necessity of dealing much more liberally and impartially with all our Schools of any grade. But let us never rely on anything short of our own determined and energetic action for the success and permanence of this Grammar School. By your actions and attainments shall it be judged, and to you and your influence