

display of a certain natural aptitude, for controlling others which is a most valuable quality in the teacher, and so masters of monitorial schools were guided in the choice of promising pupils to be raised to the position of general monitors, and then to that of masters or mistresses. The monitors of higher grade in these schools received special instruction out of the ordinary school hours by the master of the school, in order that they might be prepared for the more effectual performance of their special duties. This method which developed into the pupil-teacher system of the English Common Schools, undoubtedly did much for popular education before the general establishment of Normal Schools provided a better means of training teachers for their work.

The desirability of providing teachers for "the Canadas" was continually before the minds of the managers of the British and Canadian School. They aimed not merely to benefit the city of Montreal by maintaining a good school here, and to aid indirectly by the light of a good example other parts of the provinces, but to afford direct assistance by supplying persons trained as school-masters to take charge of new schools. The manner in which this was done to supply a military school and an Indian school has been already detailed. But these instances were exceptional. The intention of the promoters of the British and Canadian School was to give a prolonged training to pupils of the school itself, who, becoming thoroughly versed in its methods and imbued with its spirit, should carry the benefits of education into other localities.

In an early letter applying for help to the British and Foreign School Society in England, the indefatigable Secretary says:—

"His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie is expected to be in Montreal early in the summer, when we intend to wait on His Lordship to invite him to visit the schools, with which I am sure he will be highly pleased, and to state to him that it is our object to build a school-house for 400 boys and 200 girls, and to train up young persons of both sexes to supply public schools throughout Canada with well-instructed teachers; and for this purpose to suggest to His Excellency the propriety of recommending the system of teaching to the Provincial Legislature to be adopted throughout Canada. Yesterday a letter was received from the parent of two children who attend the school, expressing his grateful thanks for the improvement made by them in learning, and his regret at being obliged to leave the place where such an opportunity is afforded for the education of poor children. One