

To His Excellency the Hon. Francis Hincks, Governor-in-Chief of Barbadoes and the Windward Islands of the West Indies.

May it please Your Excellency.

The Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada cordially welcome you to the country of your former public life, and especially to this Establishment, for the completeness of which, including its grounds, its Educational Offices, its Normal and Model Schools, Museum and Depositories of School Apparatus and Libraries, the country is largely indebted to your exertions. We are happy to avail ourselves of this occasion to acknowledge that the means for procuring these grounds and erecting these buildings were recommended by you to the Canadian Legislature in 1850; that the General School Act itself of that year, under the authority of which we have provided these structures and matured our present system of public instruction for Upper Canada, was introduced by you into the Legislature, and became law by means of your advocacy and efforts in connection with those of your truly patriotic colleague, the late lamented Honorable Robert Baldwin, who, at that time with yourself, first proposed the fundamental principle of our school system: namely, the right of the freeholders and householders in each municipality to provide for the education of their children in their own way, without being superseded in any respect, but aided to the utmost extent possible, by the encouragement and cooperation of Government, whose only restrictive interposition is, to insure individual right of conscience, parental supremacy in matters of religion, and the expenditure of public school monies for the payment of duly qualified teachers.

It was also when you were first Minister of the Crown in Canada, and on your recommendation, that our Grammar and Supplementary School Acts of 1853 and 1854, were submitted to the Legislature. Under the operation of these acts, our Grammar Schools have been incorporated into a general system, and greatly improved Maps, Globes, and various apparatus have been provided for the public schools generally, and Libraries to the extent of nearly two hundred thousand volumes have been established by municipal and local school authorities.

It affords us great satisfaction to be able to add, that successive administrations of Government, and all political parties of Upper Canada, have maintained inviolate the great principles of that system of public instruction in the establishment of which you took so conspicuous and leading a part.

We are sure it will afford you pleasure to learn, that in Upper Canada, the population of which, according to the census taken in 1851, was less than a million, the number of children in the Common Schools, according to the last annual returns in 1857, was 272,737, and the amount provided by the people for their education was upwards of one million two hundred thousand dollars—an increase of more than three hundred per cent. since 1850, with a corresponding improvement in the character and fittings of the school-houses, and the methods and quality of instruction given.

We sincerely congratulate your Excellency on the high honor which our Gracious Sovereign has been pleased to confer upon you, and on the success of your Government in the West Indies. We assure you of our earnest wishes and prayers for your future prosperity and happiness.

Department of Public Instruction, Toronto, 23rd April, 1859.

Hon. Mr. Hincks replied as follows;

Gentlemen,—I thank you most sincerely for the cordial welcome which you have extended to me on the occasion of this transient visit to my adopted country, and for the flattering notice which you have taken of my humble efforts to promote the success of the educational system of Upper Canada during the period when I had the honor of serving as one of the Ministers of the Crown for this Province.

It is most gratifying to me to learn from your statistics that the people have of late evinced even greater zeal than they did formerly in the promotion of education.

Your association of my name with that of my lamented friend and former colleague, the late Hon. Robert Baldwin, affords me a suitable opportunity of expressing the poignant regret which I felt on hearing of the death of that truly upright man.

Let me once more thank you, gentlemen, for the unexpected honor conferred on me by your address, and let me assure you of my best wishes for the success of your efforts in the promotion of education.

— AUTHORIZED SCHOOL BOOKS, UPPER CANADA.—The United Board of School Trustees in the town of Guelph have been most diligent and active

in placing the schools of that town upon a most efficient footing, and from the reports and regulations which they have adopted and published from time to time we have made some valuable extracts. The subject of authorized school books having been lately under consideration, the Board adopted the following report of a sub-committee on the subject. After referring to some proposed arrangements, they state that "they feel that a departure from the established rules in this particular would be a dangerous course, and might at a future time be productive of evil. * * * They feel satisfied that the law gives the Board or its officers no discretionary power in this particular, and the constant spirit and intention of the various enactments upon this subject, are to the effect that no books not authorized by the Council of Public Instruction shall be used in any Common School in Upper Canada. To illustrate their opinion the Committee subjoin the following extracts from the Common School Act 13 and 14 Vic., cap 48:

Sec. 14 enacts that no foreign books in the English branches of education shall be used in any Model or Common School, without the express permission of the Council of Public Instruction.

Sec. 23, Sub. Sec. 10.—Requires Trustees in towns, &c., to see that all pupils in the Schools are duly supplied with an uniform series of authorized text-books.

Sec. 29, Sub. Sec. 3.—County Boards of Public Instruction are to select from a list of text-books, recommended as authorized by the Council of Public Instruction, such books as they shall think best adapted for use in the Common Schools of the County.

Sec. 31, Sub. Sec. 5.—Provides, that it shall be the duty of each Local Superintendent of Schools to prevent the use of unauthorized, and to recommend the use of authorized, books in each school.

Sec. 35, Sub. Sec. 9.—Empowers the Chief Superintendent of Education to submit all books and manuscripts that may be placed in his hands to the Council of Public Instruction, to obtain their sanction before they can be introduced as text books.

Sec. 38, Sub. Sec. 5.—Provides that the Council of Public Instruction shall examine, recommend, or disapprove of text books for the use of Schools, and further, that no portion of the Legislative School Grant shall be employed in aid of any School in which any book is used that has been disapproved of by the Council.

— VISITING THE SCHOOLS.—The Guelph Board make the following excellent suggestions on this subject: "Your Committee would suggest that an examination and report made by the Visiting Committee of each school at some time in the interim between the regular quarterly examination of the Local Superintendent, would, in their opinion, be an improvement, and make the Members of the Board more perfectly conversant with the wants, requirements, and practical workings of the various Schools, as well as afford additional encouragement to the teachers in the performance of their arduous duties."

BRITISH AND COLONIAL.

— THE ABERDEEN COLLEGES UNITED.—The Gazette publishes an ordinance from the Scottish Universities' Commissioners ordaining that from and after the 15th October next, the two Universities shall be fused into one, under the name of the University of Aberdeen. The ordinance further directs; "That there shall not be more than one Professorship in any one branch of instruction in the Faculty of Arts in the University of Aberdeen. That the classes in the Faculty of Arts, with the exception of the class of Natural History, and the classes in the Faculty of Divinity, in University of Aberdeen, shall assemble and be taught in that portion of the University Buildings, hitherto belonging to, and occupied by King's College, with any additions that may be made thereto; and those in the Faculty of Law and Medicine, and also the class of Natural History, shall assemble and be taught in that portion of the University Buildings belonging to, and occupied by Marischal College, with any additions that may be made thereto. That the general Library of the University shall be kept at that portion of the University Buildings belonging to, and occupied by, King's College, but any library or libraries to be appropriated to the Faculties of Law and Medicine shall be placed in buildings convenient for the use of these Faculties."

— MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY ADMITTED TO IMPERIAL RANK.—"Downing Street, March 19.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to direct that letters patent be passed under the Great Seal, granting and declaring that the degree of Bachelor of Arts; Master of Arts, Bachelor of Medicine, Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Laws, Doctor of Laws, Bachelor of Music,