

consist of two distinct departments. The one, the Normal School proper, where the rules of the art of teaching are expounded; the other, the Model School, where they are illustrated by practice. Such institutions have now become most popular in every country.—They were first organized in Germany; France then adopted them, and Ireland followed. They are now numerous throughout the whole of North America, and have recently been introduced into England. Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island have preceded us in the establishment of Normal Schools; and had it not been that our numerous colleges, and still more so, our numerous girls' academies, have supplied in part, the absence of such institutions it would be difficult to comprehend how we have arrived at our present condition in relation to public instruction—having but few efforts to make to stand equal to other highly favored nations.—The McGill Normal School is chiefly intended to meet the wants of the whole Protestant population of Lower Canada. As to its material condition, it has been placed in a building, an inspection of which will show that nothing has been spared to render it worthy of the great and noble object we have in view. It is located in a commanding position, from which students may contemplate the rapid progress of this great commercial city, as it extends itself in every direction; from which they may view the chimneys of its manufactories and the glittering spires and domes of its churches and of its many monuments. As to the moral direction of the McGill Normal School, it comes under a code of general rules prepared for all our Normal Schools, and of special regulations, which, from time to time, will be framed for its government. In the supervision which the law has confided to me, I have been happy to associate with myself the governing body of McGill College. The interests which the citizens of Montreal have so nobly evinced towards that institution, by their liberal subscriptions in its favor, will dispense with the necessity of any further allusion to its efficiency. I can only state that the views of its founder could not have been better carried out than they are now, by its Governors, and by the able principal whom they have placed at the head of the institution. If the memory of the dead be sacred, if the names of the good men who have left this world always carry with them deep sentiments of veneration, it is still with greater emotion that the name of one who has left behind him a lasting monument of his love of mankind must be uttered. The name of the late Hon. James McGill, which we have felt pride in giving to this School, will be now remembered by the people of Canada, with those of the Lavals, the Plessis, the Painchauds, the Girouards, the Ducharmes, and all the founders of our Colleges, now so numerous and so flourishing. The teachers, who under that name will undertake the great work we are now inaugurating, will have before their eyes the duty of keeping its glory untarnished, in addition to all the other motives which must guide them in the fulfilment of their engagements. To them I have but one word to say,—Let them be the worthy representatives of the late James McGill. To the pupil teachers who are here assembled I would say,—“You are now beginning to share a fearful responsibility which will but increase day by day. But your ever showing yourselves equal to it will mainly depend upon your present exertions. The tree will be judged by its fruit, and you are to be the first fruits of the one we are this day planting. It remains with you to give a name and a character to this institution. More than that, it will be in your power to discourage or to enhance the great experiment the country is making by the establishment of Normal Schools. Indeed, you would be unworthy of your position, unworthy of the interest which the government and the whole community are extending to you—if it required one word more to stimulate you in the prosecution of your duties.”

The Hon. Superintendent of Education resumed his seat amidst loud and protracted cheers.

The Chairman concluded by calling on the Lord Bishop of Montreal to address the meeting.

The Bishop said:—I am sure, Sir, that the able and eloquent speech which you have just delivered has been listened to with the greatest interest by us all, wherein you have given so full an account of the progress of education in this province, and also of the steps taken to found this establishment; and as others will address this meeting after me, better able than I am to enter into any statements respecting the manner in which the work of training and education is to be carried on in these schools, I will rather confine myself, at this commencement of our operations, to some remarks on the general principles upon which the Institution is established. I need not occupy your time now for the purpose of endeavoring to prove that there can scarcely be any more important question for the consideration of statesmen and philanthropists than that of the general education of the people; nor need I enter into any details to convince those here present, that notwithstanding all that has been already accomplished, there was much work to be done in this department in the Province of Lower Canada, while without the active interference and influence of the government there was no prospect of any general or effectual progress being made. And one of the great-

est wants to be provided for was deficiency of teachers, I mean as regards their regular training and fitness for the work to be intrusted to them. In a country like this, where there is no recognition of any particular faith, as representing the Church, which is to receive the especial countenance of the State, it is certainly no easy task to carry into operation any general system that shall approve itself to the several religious communities. For myself I have not one particle of faith in the notion that society can be regenerated or vice eradicated by any amount of mere secular instruction,—by any amount of knowledge of the sciences or languages. There is still the educated and accomplished villain; of such persons certainly David speaks, when he says: “My heart sheweth me the wickedness of the ungodly, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.” It is clear, however, that in an establishment like this, supported by the public funds, and admitting persons of various communions, there must be some modification of faith provided—some compromise allowed. And there are more who may be in consequence inclined to refuse their co-operation because they cannot have the entire management in their own hands, and everything at their own will. We cannot, however, stand still; we must be doing something for the education of the people; and I conceive that it is our wisdom to do it patriotically as best we can with the means offered to us. And while I protest against the ignoring religion, as the basis of all sound education, while at all times and on all occasions I shall reiterate that protest, and accept the present organization, not as in itself the best, but the best attainable one; and while, by the arrangements provided, we seek to bring all the students in the school into some direct connection with their clergymen and under specific religious training, I, and those who act with me, will endeavor, as far as any small portion of the task may depend upon us, in all good faith, to work out for the benefit of this Lower Province the objects of this institution. And while I hope that those engaged in this Institution will act in good faith one towards another, I trust the Church of England and other religious communions who have an especial interest in the McGill Normal School and the Protestant schools throughout the Province will continue to receive fair and liberal treatment. We are, even when thus associated together, but a small minority in this Lower Province; but we are, nevertheless, not an unimportant part of the community. Still, when it was decided to place the education of this portion of the Province under the direction of a single Superintendent, we could not have expected that he should have been selected from that minority. On this account, we have no right to be dissatisfied; but have some right to expect that in the distribution of the annual Parliamentary grant, as coming through a Superintendent who is of the faith of the majority, that if there be any favor shown, the balance should rather be thrown on the side of the minority. I am quite aware that you will have no easy task to fulfil in the administration of your office. Hitherto, as far as I can learn and my own observation has gone, you have given very general satisfaction to all reasonable minds. And, certainly, all must acknowledge the attention and energy and talents with which you have applied yourself to the work before you. At present, to the great credit of this portion of the Province with which your office is connected, there is, I think, very generally, an exceeding kind and good feeling between all classes of the population, consisting of such different races and different creeds—a state of things which, I hope, may long continue; and while I will leave others to note the progress that is making in commercial greatness, in arts and manufactures, I would wish to be able if life be spared to us, to chronicle, as years pass, by the increasing success of these institutions whose commencement you are now inaugurating, and the good effects of all our efforts in the cause of education, and above all, that while our people advance in intelligence and worldly greatness, that intelligence may ever be sanctified by heavenly grace, and their earthly treasures far surpassed by those enduring riches which are being laid up in Heaven, not for the worldly wise nor worldly mighty, but for the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus.

After the applause incident to his Lordship's remarks had subsided, the chairman called upon His Excellency General Eyre, who made a few remarks and the proceedings terminated.

DEATH OF THE REV. DR. HINCKS.

The demise of a gentleman who occupied so distinguished a position in religion and science as the Rev. Dr. Thomas Hincks cannot be permitted to pass with the brief notice which appears in our obituary. Distinguished quite as much by the amiability of his disposition as by his profound erudition, and those great powers of mind which he preserved unimpaired to the latest moment of his existence, the reverend deceased was universally esteemed during life, and is generally regretted being dead. He had far transcended the span allotted to