

The design of the building has been rather for utility than effect, still a fitness of decoration has been observed, in good keeping with the object of the erection. The front is in the Roman Doric order of Palladian character, having for its centre four pilasters of the full height of the building, with pediment surrounded by an open doric cupola, 95 feet in height. The Offices of the Department are on the ground floor of the main structure. The Theatre or Examination Hall is on the ground floor of this building, surrounded by a gallery, and lighted from the roof. It will accommodate between 600 and 700 persons. A room on the east side of the building is appropriated for the use of the male students, and the west for females; and except when in the presence of the masters, they are entirely separated. The number and size of the rooms on the ground floor is as follows:—

On the East Side:—

School of Art and Design, No. 1,	36 : 0'' x 28 : 0''
School of Art and Design, No. 2,	36 : 5 x 28 : 0
Male Students' Retiring Room,	36 : 0 x 30 : 0
Council Room,	39 : 0 x 22 : 0
Male Students' Staircase,	17 : 6 x 11 : 0

On the West Side:—

Visitors' Room,	22 : 8'' x 14 : 8''
Second Clerk's Office,	22 : 0 x 14 : 3
Deputy Superintendent's Office, with fire-proof vault,	37 : 11 x 22 : 0
Chief Superintendent's Office,	28 : 0 x 21 : 0
Ante-Room to ditto,	22 : 0 x 14 : 3
Depository of Books, Maps, Prints for Public Schools, &c.,	28 : 0 x 21 : 0
Depository of Books and Stationary for Normal School,	22 : 8 x 14 : 8
Female Students' Retiring Room,	36 : 0 x 26 : 10
Female Students' Staircase,	17 : 6 x 11 : 0

The Model School Buildings are in the rear of the main structure, and are approached by corridors from each side of the theatre. There is also an entrance from the east for boys, and from the west for girls. There are spacious yards on each side of the Model School, for the recreation of the scholars. These yards are planked over, and well furnished with suitable contrivances for gymnastic exercises. The Model School for boys and girls is 175 feet 6 inches by 59 feet 6 inches, with two school rooms, 56 feet 6 inches, by 23 feet, and capable together of accommodating 200 pupils each. There are several smaller class rooms, fitted with every convenience for the comfort and instruction of the scholars. In the gallery rooms, intended for the explanation of maps, illustrations of natural history, &c., &c., the seats are raised, so that the pupils on each seat can look over the heads of those in front. Thus, a class of fifty or sixty can with ease, and without moving from their seats, examine every point on a map to which their attention may be directed by the teacher.

In the upper floor of the Normal School building are the following rooms:—

Lecture Room, No. 1,	56 : 0'' x 36 : 0''
Lecture Room, No. 2,	45 : 0 x 28 : 0
Lecture Room, No. 3,	56 : 0 x 36 : 0
Lecture Room, No. 4,	32 : 8 x 28 : 0
Head Master's Room,	22 : 0 x 19 : 5½
Second Master's Room,	22 : 0 x 19 : 5½
Museum,	42 : 0 x 22 : 0
Library,	39 : 5 x 22 : 0
Laboratory,	21 : 6 x 12 : 0

The buildings are heated by hot air. The furnaces are in the basement, and surrounded entirely by brick-work; even the floors are brick. Water is let in from the City Water Works, and at two places in each floor in the building, (six places in all) provision is made for attaching hose and conveying water wherever it may be needed, in case of fire.

The grounds have been levelled and underdrained, and made ready for the purpose of conveying practical instruction in agricultural chemistry, botany, and vegetable economy.

THE CEREMONY.

The chair, on the occasion of the ceremony, was filled by the Honorable S. B. Harrison, Chairman of the Council of Public Instruction. On the platform were the Honourable the Chief Justice of Upper Canada; the Honorable Inspector General Hincks; the Rev. Dr. McCaul, President of the University of Toronto; the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Schools; J. C. Morrison, Esq., M.P.P., Rev. Mr. Lillie; Rev. Mr. Jennings; and J. S. Howard, Esq., Members of the Council of Public Instruction; G. P. Ridout, Esq., M. P. P., for the City of Toronto; and T. J. Robertson, Esq., Head Master.

The Hon. Mr. HARRISON, said it had fallen to his duty, as Chairman of the Council of Public Instruction, to preside at this meeting, and the Council were exceedingly gratified with so large an assemblage on the occasion of the inauguration of these buildings, which have been fitted up for the purposes of Common School education. It would be out of place for him to make any remarks at this time, and more especially when there are so many gentlemen anxious to make some observations. He would simply state the order of proceeding, and the first upon this occasion would be a short and appropriate prayer, after that, those gentlemen prepared to make observations will be heard. The Rev. H. J. Grasett, a member of the Council, who was to have taken part in the proceedings, by offering up prayer, having been called away to Hamilton, had, with the concurrence of the Council, appointed the Rev. A. Lillie to take his place. He would therefore call upon the Rev. Mr. Lillie to open the proceedings in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Grasett.

Rev. Mr. LILLIE having offered up a very appropriate prayer, the Chairman called upon the first speaker.

The Honorable J. B. ROBINSON, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, on being announced by the Chairman, said, *Mr. Chairman*:—It is an event of no ordinary interest that we are met to celebrate. It is now publicly announced that the building which the Province has erected for the accommodation of the Normal and Model Schools, is completed; and has been taken possession of by the officers of the Department. The ceremony by which it has been thought proper to mark the occasion, occurs at a moment when my time and thoughts are unavoidably so engrossed by the judicial duties in which I am daily engaged, and of which the performance cannot be postponed, that I have found it difficult to comply with the request of Dr. Ryerson, that I would take a part, however unimportant, in the proceedings. It would have been more difficult for me, however, wholly to decline a request which I could not but feel that the Superintendent of this most important institution had a right to make, not more on account of the deep interest which ought to be taken in the work in which he is engaged, than on account of the ability and industry and the unabated zeal with which he devotes himself to the duty. I must hope that from a consideration of the circumstances I have mentioned, you will be disposed to receive with indulgence the observations which I venture to offer, however little worthy they may seem of the cause and of the occasion, and of the spacious and elegant hall devoted to education in which they are delivered. The larger portion of this audience are probably, like myself, not entitled to speak with confidence of the grace and propriety of architectural designs; but it is acknowledged that so far as may be consistent with strength and durability, what the art of the builder aims at is to please,—and to please not those only who can appreciate his difficulties but the greater multitude of observers who are ignorant of rules, and and who when they admire, they know not why, give a strong testimony that one great object of the artist has been attained. I believe I am expressing the general sentiment when I declare my admiration of the handsome edifice in which we are assembled. It would have been inconsistent with the circumstances of this yet new country to have expended much of the revenues necessary for the supply of so many pressing and growing wants, in decorating this structure with the massive columns and elaborate carving which are required for creating an imposing grandeur of effect; but we have here provided in a style fairly in keeping with the country, and with the object, a large, substantial, and well proportioned building—of durable materials, and yet of light appearance, and in its interior arrangements, I doubt not, perfectly well adapted to its purpose. I have heard it generally spoken of as a striking ornament of the city in which it occupies a convenient and appropriate position, and by whose inhabitants I trust it will come to be regarded in successive generations with growing favour. In my own judgment it does great credit to the taste and talents of the architect, and I wish, for the sake of Mr. Cumberland, that the opinion came from a quarter which could give it value. (Applause.) But these are minor matters. It is to the system of religious, intellectual and moral training that is to be carried on within these walls that the deeper interest attaches; for we stand now around the fountain from which are to flow those streams of elementary instruction, which, while the common school system endures, must be conducted from it into every city, township and village in Upper Canada.—I