

declared to be the "School Fund" of the Municipality, and from which, as such, the Separate Schools were to receive their legal share.

The other subject of special local interest in 1852 was that of "Free Schools." An agitation against their adoption, which had been kept up by individuals and in the Press for some time, at length culminated in the active formation of an anti-Free School Crusade. The promoters of this movement took strong ground against the imposition of any Rates upon property for the purchase of School Sites, the building of School Houses, or the maintenance of Free Schools. They held that those alone, who required these Schools for their children, should pay for them, but that the general public should not be taxed for their support.

A Public Meeting having, by Requisition, been called by the Mayor—which was well attended—a prolonged discussion, (as given on pages 274-277), took place on the subject, which resulted in an almost unanimous and hearty vote by the Meeting in favour of a general taxation for the proposed School Sites, School Houses, and for the support, in future, of the City Public Schools as Free Schools.

It is especially gratifying to be able to turn from these less pleasing—yet, on the whole, not discouraging,—episodes in the educational history of these times, to the two chief events of the years 1851 and 1852.

The first event of importance here referred to, was the erection, in 1851, at a cost of One hundred thousand dollars, (and the permanent occupation in 1852,) of the handsome pile of Buildings on St. James' Square, (as it is now called), for the Normal and Model Schools, and for the Education Offices.

A full record of these notable events, and of the able and statesmanlike Speeches delivered on these occasions by Lord Elgin and by other prominent Public Men of those days is given in this Volume. The Address of Lord Elgin was especially marked by great clearness and beauty, by its eloquent tone and the almost touching pathos of his appeal to Ministers of Religion, to care "for the lambs of the flock."

These Speeches may be read to-day with a great feeling of satisfaction, as the hopeful, and almost prophetic, utterances of Fifty Years ago, by those who took part in the events recorded, have been more than fully realized in the after success and prosperity of the two important Institutions named, and also of the Education Department.

Another important movement was made in 1851 for the promotion of Public School Libraries.

The School Act of 1850 had provided for an Annual Grant of Twelve thousand dollars "for the establishment and support of Public School Libraries" in Upper Canada. Preliminary steps were taken by the Chief Superintendent, in 1851, to give effect to this wise and generous grant of the Legislature for these libraries. A record of the proceedings to this end is given, and the proceedings are also fully detailed on pages 97-99 and 191-201 of this Volume.

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