

Many of the better class of local Schools, which were established in some of the Villages, were, however, taught by Scotch "Dominies" who had come to Canada as emigrants. One of this class of Teachers I have referred to on page 125 of the Second Volume of the Documentary History, who taught the Village School at Galt, where I resided, in 1836-38, by the name of Mr. John Gouinlock, the Author, at a later date, of a very good Arithmetic.

There were also some very noted superior Schools established in various parts of the Province in the early days. In Volume One of this Documentary History, I have given, from various publications, and from old newspapers, as already noted, interesting detailed sketches of these Schools, particularly the famous School of Doctor Strachan, at Cornwall, and afterwards the one founded at York, (Toronto) by the Reverend Doctor George Okill Stuart, and made the more celebrated as being taught by the Reverend Doctor Strachan in the old Blue School House, (on the Site of the present Public Library, Toronto).

The other more important Schools in Upper Canada, as pointed out, were the Ernesttown Academy at Bath, established in 1811 and taught by the Father of the Honourable Marshall Spring Bidwell, (who was afterwards Speaker of the House of Assembly). The Grantham Academy, at St. Catharines, was established in 1827, two years before Sir John Colborne projected Upper Canada College, and nine years before the foundation of the Upper Canada Academy at Cobourg.

Of the many other noted Teachers "In the olden times," to which I have referred in the First Volume of the Documentary History, I may here mention the names of Doctor William Warren Baldwin, the Father of the Honourable Robert Baldwin, the Reverend George Ryerson, (who had for the Usher of the School his Brother Egerton), James Mitchell, (afterwards Judge) and John Law, besides many others, whose names are enumerated on page 229 of the Second Volume of the History.

I might here mention the "Central School" of York, established in 1820, by Lieutenant-Governor Sir Perigrine Maitland, as a "National Church of England School," which was conducted on the principles of the "Madras," or "Bell and Lancaster," system of teaching.

In 1815, the Midland District School Society was formed, with a view to promote the Lancastrian System of School Teaching, then in operation in England. It remained in operation for several years.

No effort was made by the Legislature to provide for the establishment of Elementary Schools in Upper Canada until 1816,—nine years after a Law had been passed by the Legislature for the establishment and maintenance of a Grammar School in each District of the Province. One Hundred pounds, (£100,) was granted to each of these Schools, but only twenty-five pounds, (£25,) to each of the Common Elementary Schools. A General Board of Education, chiefly for financial purposes, was appointed in 1823, and subsequently District Boards of Education. The General Board ceased in 1836

For the copy of the "First Report" of this School, see pages 177-178 of the First Volume of the Documentary History

THE OLD LOG SCHOOL HOUSE OF LONG AGO AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS.

At a Meeting of Pioneer Teachers, held in Toronto in 1887, one of the oldest of these Teachers gave the following graphic description of the Old Log School House of his early days:—

Very distinctly the vision of such a School of the old type, although at a date much less than fifty years ago, rises before me as memory carries me back to the little Canadian hamlet, in which my boyhood was passed.