

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION,

Upper



Canada.

VOL. XII.

TORONTO: FEBRUARY, 1859.

No. 2.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

PAGE

I. EDUCATIONAL SPEECHES BY DISTINGUISHED MEN IN ENGLAND: (1) Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P. (2) Charles Dickens, Esq. (3) Henry, Lord Brougham	17
II. EXTRACTS FROM AMERICAN SCHOOL REPORTS: (1) State of Pennsylvania. (2) State of New York. (3) City of New York. (4) Michigan...	21
III. PAPERS ON PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND COMMERCE: (1) Commercial Intercourse with China and Japan. (2) Present State of India. (3) Parcels by Post in Canada. (4) Other Postal Improvements in Canada...	23
IV. EDITORIAL: (1) Circular to Wardens and County Councils. (2) Order and Classification of Studies prescribed for Common Schools	24
V. PAPERS ON NATURAL HISTORY: No. 3. The Hudson's Bay Company's Fur Rooms at Victoria. No. 4. The Chase; its importance as a Branch of Industry in Canada. No. 5. The Fisheries of the St. Lawrence. (1) Correspondence on the subject of Natural History	26
VI. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES: No. 2. Commander Viger. No. 3. The Hon. Samuel Crane. No. 4. Proposed Statue of the late Hon. Robert Baldwin, C.B.	26
VII. MISCELLANEOUS: (1) Beautiful Snow. (2) What is to be done with our Charlie? (3) Twelve Golden Maxims for Families. (4) Rarity of Success in Mercantile Life	27
VIII. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE: Canada—(1) University of Toronto. (2) Chief Justice Sir J. B. Robinson on the Causes of Juvenile Crime. (3) Grand Jury's Presentment on Education. (3) Barrie County Grammar School Prize Scholarship. (4) School Examination at Bradford. (5) Duties of Local Superintendents of Union Grammar and Common Schools. (6) North Monaghan Township Library. (7) Education in the Church of England Diocese of Montreal. British and Foreign—(1) The Queen's School, in London	30
IX. LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC: (1) Proposed New Material for Paper. (2) Home Manufactures	32
X. Departmental Notices and Advertisements	32

EDUCATIONAL SPEECHES BY DISTINGUISHED MEN IN ENGLAND.*

1. SIR GEORGE GREY, BART., M.P.,

Late Secretary of State for the Colonial (1852-1855) and Home (1855-1858) Departments.

NO IMPROVEMENT CAN TAKE PLACE IN THE MORAL AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE WITHOUT INTELLECTUAL CULTURE AND RELAXATION.

In his speech at the meeting of the Northern Association of Mechanics' Institutes, held in Alnwick, in September, 1858, Sir George Grey remarked as follows:—There is one thing which I should not fail to mention as a subject of congratulation, namely, that in the age in which we live, it is useless and superfluous to dwell upon the advantages of the diffusion of education and of knowledge. The time is happily gone by when, to use the language of a great writer, "The arrogance of learning can condemn to ignorance the great body of the people." (Applause.) The time is happily gone by, too, I may add, when the fears or apprehensions of one class of society can stand in the way or raise a barrier against the enlightenment and education of the great body of another. (Loud applause.) It is now universally admitted that knowledge is a blessing; and the only question which is discussed, the only thing upon which debates and difference of opinion

arise, is as to the best means of effecting an object, the value of which all concur in, and of promoting as widely as possible the blessings of education and of knowledge. (Continued applause.) I believe there is nothing more true than a sentence which I find in an appeal lately issued by the council of this association in behalf of their itinerating libraries—namely, that it is in vain to expect any marked improvement in the moral and social condition of the people, without affording them the means of intellectual culture and relaxation. (Loud applause.) And I am bound to say that I also most cordially concur in the view in a passage from the report, in which it was stated that the object was the withdrawing men from the tavern and the alehouse, which will be frequented, whatever prohibitory laws you pass (applause), whatever restraints you attempt to impose,—so long as the tavern and the alehouse are the only resource which the many have, and where they find social relaxation and intercourse. I say I cannot but agree in the opinion so expressed, that the best way to counteract that evil influence which we all so much deplore, but which I hope is losing its weight and diminishing in this country, is by establishing something which will be attractive to the people, and which, while it will amuse and interest them, will also elevate and improve them. (Loud applause.) It is truly said, therefore, I think, that the best mode of proceeding is to establish a reading room, wherever a reading room can be established, accessible to the public, comfortably lighted, and with other requisites which are necessary in order to make it attractive; and by so doing you present to them, as reasonable beings, as beings accountable not only to the laws of their country, but accountable to God, you place before them enjoyments and objects of interest which, when once appreciated, will withdraw them from those debasing pleasures in which so many, in the absence of other objects of interest, are disposed to indulge. Speaking of the evil effects of intemperance, I may just advert here to some very excellent friends of my own in this county, with whom I have had much intercourse on the subject, but who certainly go further in some of their views than I can go with them, because I think it is not by prohibitory laws so much as it is by presenting counter attractions that you can successfully encounter and defeat the monster evil of intemperance.* (Loud applause.) I was struck the other day, in reading one of the works of that lamented man, Hugh Miller, whose writings I have no doubt most of you are acquainted with, with the passage in which he records some

* In our next number we propose to give extracts from speeches and lectures by public men in Canada.

* For the remarks of Chief Justice Sir John B. Robinson, on this subject, see page 30.