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PIONEER SCHOOLS OF UPPER CANADA.

By FRANK EAMES.

The essential function of the common school is the faithful development of character and executive habits in the child. The child of normal birth has executive, reflective and receptive possibilities, in some degree equal. If the two latter are trained, and the former slighted, in the child, one may deem it as a weakling hurled into the maelstrom of life, where it is invariably overwhelmed by disappointments. If a child's receptive powers enable it to reflect, any ultimate good which might accrue from its mental activity is doomed if it cannot execute the thought. Hence the need of the school to develop the child's executive powers.

The first healthy sign of awakening in a new community is evinced when decisive action is taken in behalf of intellectual, moral and spiritual uplift. Crude and humble may have been the edifices erected for the propagation of religion and education, and yet from beneath their roofs and from within their precincts have emerged the youth who have been the hope and pride of the country for more than a hundred years; by their statecraft and oratory Canada has been elevated to a proud position among nations in a brief space; by their deeds of arms in the field she has won not only mere glory and honours, but the respect of all noble and refined races as well as the awe of the most unscrupulous.

The humble roofs of the early Common Schools of Upper Canada sheltered children whose natural will and executive abilities won them positions during their lives, the memory of which will be imperishable so long as the pen of history may trace their lineaments.

This paper is intended to give a more intimate knowledge of those early edifices, affording to the teachers of history a ready reference list, showing when and where, throughout Upper Canada, the first schools were located and organized. Such meagre details of their inception as my opportunities have afforded, are here given to both student and teacher. The annexed data is too much dispersed throughout the county and local histories and archives to give ready information; so that, although there is still a lack of completeness which is perhaps regrettable, yet it is hoped the compilation may prove sufficiently useful to warrant some approval of both the effort and the idea.

In the Canadian Archives Report for 1889, page xxi, 3rd paragraph, we are informed that the Rev. John Stuart was a teacher in Montreal and later became the earliest teacher in Upper Canada. The paragraph, in part, reads as follows: "The earliest teacher in Montreal of whose life there is any definite information was the Rev. John Stuart, afterwards first Anglican clergyman at Cataragui, now Kingston. He was born in the Pro-