

CHIEF JUSTICE ROBINSON ON THE SYSTEM OF COMMON SCHOOL INSTRUCTION IN UPPER CANADA.—The following impressive remarks made by the Hon. Chief Justice ROBINSON to the Grand Jury of the Newcastle District, at the recent assizes held there, will be read with deep interest. The Chief Justice was present at the opening and both semi-annual examinations of the Provincial Normal School, and also at the lecture on the Importance of Education to an Agricultural and Free People, and has evinced the most lively solicitude in the extension of the improved system of instruction in all the Townships of the Province :—

The measures taken, and the means supplied, for the education of the people in the township schools is certain to have a most happy effect at no very distant day, in elevating the character of the industrious classes. This effect must necessarily be gradual ; it cannot in the nature of things be immediate ; but it is very cheering to reflect that in whatever degree it may come to be felt year after year, in that degree it will be felt universally throughout the whole extent of the Province : for this agent of incalculable good is at the same time working in every corner of the land, and upon the same sound system. I do not now speak of the system of supporting and governing these schools, which seems not to have gained entire assent, and which may, for all I know, be capable of material improvement. I speak only of the system of instruction which it is designed to impart through their instrumentality, and of which I believe that, if it shall be faithfully persevered in, and carried through upon the principles, and to the extent exemplified in the present conduct of the Normal School now established in this Province, it is capable of raising the character and increasing the happiness of the great body of the people to a degree which can hardly be estimated. I had very lately an opportunity of witnessing the course of instruction, by which a numerous body of teachers are being trained and qualified in this Provincial institution for the duty of conducting the township schools, and no one, I think, can be present at such an examination as I allude to, without feeling the conviction that if the Legislature shall wisely persevere in supporting this liberal system of education for the multitude, and if the very able men who are now engaged in conducting it, shall be encouraged by the approbation and cordial concurrence of the people for whose best interests they are toiling in an arduous and anxious round of duties, there will be an improvement worked out in the general public condition of this country, and in the social and individual welfare of its inhabitants, which a few years ago, it would have seemed visionary to contemplate. It is not only that the instruction imparted in common schools superintended by teachers who have been so prepared will make a happier, because a better and more intelligent being of the pupil who receives it, but it is when those pupils who have been so trained, and taught, become parents and heads of families, (and, in that relation, teachers, whose lessons will be most trusted, and longer remembered,) raising by their precepts and examples the standard of intelligence and moral character in the generation which they are for a time to govern, and by which they are to be succeeded : it is then that future Judges and Jurors may look for the benign and all-pervading influence of this benevolent and comprehensive measure.