

"Mr. Robertson received his education in Trinity College, Dublin, and obtained honors both in science and classics; and he was from a very early age engaged as teacher in the higher branches of instruction.

"He was appointed by the board, in the first instance, one of the inspectors of national schools, which situation he held until 1838, when he was brought into the central establishment to assist in the management of the inspection department. During the period in which Mr. Robertson was so engaged, he was, upon several occasions, deputed by the commissioners to conduct important and difficult investigations, relating to the management of national schools, and the conduct both of officers and teachers under the board.

"In July, 1845, the commissioners deemed it expedient to appoint four head inspectors with increased salaries, in order to give greater efficiency to the system of inspection. Mr. T. J. Robertson was the first person elected to this important office, an office requiring an intimate knowledge of the principles and working of the national system of education, and also the necessary qualifications for forming an accurate opinion of the discipline of the schools, the methods of instruction, the progress of the children, the fitness of the teachers, and the manner in which the district inspectors discharged their duties.

"The commissioners have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the highly satisfactory and efficient manner in which Mr. Robertson has discharged the responsible duties of these important situations; and they feel assured that the Canadian Board of Education may place implicit reliance upon his integrity, zeal, ability and discretion. The commissioners, therefore, confidently recommend him for the head mastership of the Toronto Normal School.

"Mr. Rintoul has, in compliance with your instructions, handed to Mr. Robertson the bills forwarded by you for travelling expenses and the purchase of school apparatus.

"Mr. Robertson will leave Dublin, at the latest, in the middle of July next.

"We are, sir, your obedient servants,

(Signed), "MAURICE CROSS, } "Secretaries."  
"JAMES KELLY, }

Mr. Robertson arrived in Canada with his family in September, 1847; and by a singular coincidence "The official appointment" (as the minutes express it) "of Mr. T. J. Robertson as Head Master of the Normal School," was laid before the board and ordered for the signature of the Chairman, the 28th day of September, 1847—just nineteen years from the day on which the teachers and students of the school over which he had so long presided, and the officers of the department with which he had been so long connected, followed his mortal remains to their last earthly resting place.

Mr. Robertson entered upon his new duties with great skill and energy; and the ability and success with which he pursued them was evident from the fact, that the Normal and Model Schools of Upper Canada soon became through his labors, aided by able colleagues, the confessedly model training institution of America, a position which it occupies at this day in the estimation of American educationalists who have visited it, as well as in that of European travellers. Exemplary in private and domestic life, as he was faithful in his public duties, he illustrated his admirable methods of teaching and government in the thorough and practical manner in which he has educated—ably assisted by Mrs. Robertson—his most exemplary and excellent family of three sons and three daughters.

During Mr. Robertson's Head Mastership upwards of four thousand teachers have been trained in the Normal School—many of whom are now members, and some of them leading members, of the different professions of law, medicine and divinity, and hundreds of them are teaching in various parts of the country,—having given tone and character to the common school teaching throughout Upper Canada. One of them is an able master of the English Normal School in Lower Canada, and another (a student of the first session) is the present acting Head Master of the Normal School for Upper Canada—J. H. Sangster, Esq., A.M., M.D.—author of several excellent school text books, a most accomplished teacher and administrator of school government.

Mr. Robertson's loss of voice and failure of health have prevented him from discharging his official duties for several months, during which he gradually succumbed under the weight of his complicated maladies, with little pain and a devout and entire trust in the merits of his Redeemer, in whose hand he breathed his spirit the evening of the 26th September, 1866, in the sixty-second year of his age. His remains were brought to the Normal School buildings, where the council of public instruction and officers of the department, masters of the Normal and Model schools, and students of the Normal school, with other friends of the family, assembled. A chapter was then read by the Rev. Dr. Barclay, and short addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Dewar (a Normal school

student of the first session) and Dr. Ryerson, and prayer offered by the Rev. Dr. Lillie; after which the funeral cortege proceeded to St. James' cemetery, when the service at the grave was impressively read by the Rev. Mr. Grasett, the rector and pastor of the deceased.

*Extract from the Minutes of the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada, in regard to Mr. Robertson.*

"This Council records the expression of its deep regret at the decease, after a protracted illness, of Thomas J. Robertson, Esq., A.M., who has, for nineteen years, been the faithful and able Head Master of the Normal School for Upper Canada. During that time Mr. Robertson, by his exemplary private life, affectionate assiduity and skill in teaching, and lectures and counsels to upwards of four thousand Students, who have been trained in the Normal School as Teachers, has largely contributed to improve and elevate the methods and characters of school teaching and government throughout Upper Canada."

*Ordered:—*"That a copy of the foregoing Minute be transmitted to Mrs. Robertson, for whom and whose family, under their severe bereavement, this Council desires to express the warmest sympathy, in the irreparable loss which they have sustained by the removal of one whom they, with a large circle of friends, so much loved and respected."

The public will learn with sincere sorrow of the death of our most esteemed citizen. Mr. T. J. Robertson died last night. For many years the Principal of one of the leading educational institutions of our Province, Mr. Robertson has been prominently before the public, and the high state of efficiency to which his skilful guidance has brought the Normal School shows how complete is the success which has crowned the labours of a long and useful life. A strict disciplinarian, as well as a true scholar, he was peculiarly fitted for the arduous duties of the post he has so well and faithfully filled. Though rigid in discipline, he was yet kind in the discharge of his duty, and among the many that will regret the loss we have all sustained, there will be few truer mourners than the numerous band of students throughout the Province, who can never forget how earnest he was as an instructor—how kind as a friend. But not only will the deceased be missed from the ranks of our scholars; of all manly recreations he was an ardent admirer, and in some of them himself a hearty sharer. Here, released from the cares of the class-room, his genial nature was fully shown, and by his many friends in the Royal Canadian Yacht Club—of which he was so long a zealous officer and member—his welcome presence will be sadly missed. By Mr. Robertson's death, our little band of Canadian authors lose a member, whose place it will be hard to fill. One of the valuable productions of his pen is now in use as a text book in our schools. To own his worth and sincerely regret his loss will be now a mournful pleasure with all those—and how many they are—who have benefited by the labours of his useful life.—*Toronto Daily Telegraph, 27th September.*

## VII. Miscellaneous.

### 1. COMING FROM SCHOOL.

They are coming, happy children,  
School is out and they're at play—  
Coming through the lane and orchard,  
Surely not the nearest way.

Rosy cheeks and eyes that sparkle,  
Laugh that's ringing loud and free,  
Constant din of childish prattle,  
Not a heart but's filled with glee.

Roaming here and there 'mid flowers,  
Playing drive, or take a ride.  
Counting o'er the mountain frolics,  
Source alike of joy and pride.

Naught care they for wealth or fashion,  
Bonnets swinging in the hand;  
Fairy locks are feebly waving,  
Round the brows so deeply tanned.

Little hats are clutched half brimless,  
Butterflies must now take care,  
Earnestly, each youthful sportsman  
Longs to take them in his snare.

Tiny feet are treading homeward,  
By the brook and 'long the hill,