

yet in all the provinces the children of rich and poor can obtain a good education which will fit them for their ordinary occupations of life. The labourer may pay little or nothing towards the support of education, and yet his child is on as good a footing in the public schools as the child of the merchant or lawyer or doctor who contributes largely towards this object. The State long ago recognized its obligations to take the initiative in the establishment of a thorough system of free education for the people, and consequently a large sum of money is annually expended by the governments of all the provinces to supplement the taxes raised by the municipalities. At present there are in all Canada some twenty colleges, many of them having University powers, and offering a large and excellent curriculum to the ambitious student; over 14,000 common and other schools, and eight normal schools, in which teachers are trained. The total amount annually expended by the governments and people of all the provinces amounts to 2,000,000*l.* sterling, of which Ontario contributes at least 800,000*l.* sterling. The same province has spent during thirty years some 14,000,000*l.* sterling for the building of school houses and other educational objects; and the result of its liberality is the possession of buildings which for size and convenience cannot be surpassed by the New England States, where education, from the earliest times in their history, has been the most important feature of their social and political system. The public schools of Canada, however, do not go very far back in the history of the country. In 1839 there were in all the schools of British North America only some 92,000 children out of a population of 1,400,000 souls, or one to fifteen, but now the proportion is given as one to five. The higher educational institutions of Canada, for instance, McGill University in Montreal, Toronto University, Trinity University, Queen's College in Kingston, Laval University in Quebec, Victoria University, and Dalhousie College in Halifax, have connected with them a large class of professors, many of whom have won for themselves a high reputation in the world of science and literature.

The people of Canada have been so much occupied in building cities and towns, in opening the mine, in clearing the forest, in developing all the varied resources of their country, that one would naturally suppose they have had little time for the pursuit of art, literature, and science. The geological and other sciences have, however, from an early period engaged the attention of many able men, who have found abundant opportunities for the exercise of their talents in the very fertile field of investigation and study which the natural formation and the