

ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE NORMAL SCHOOL SOIREE.

THE meeting having been duly constituted by His Excellency's taking the chair, the especial business of the day was entered upon by His Excellency's addressing the meeting in nearly the following terms:

Ladies and Gentlemen—The duty which I am called upon this day to discharge is one which is in every way agreeable to me. No circumstance could have occurred, with respect to the interests of this Colony, to afford me higher gratification than our meeting here this day to inaugurate, with due observances, the Model and Normal School of this City. Prince Edward Island is distinguished—highly distinguished—among the British Provinces of North America, for having taken the lead in establishing—for the benefit of the rising generation, and indeed for the benefit of all who call, or shall yet call the Island their home—a system of Free Education; and now we are met to inaugurate an institution for the training of teachers, by a system, the value of which is now recognized and acknowledged by almost every civilized country in the world. It is quite clear that this institution, the leading object of which is to train young persons for the proper discharge of the duties of teachers, should have preceded the establishment of free schools in the Colony; because then, from the creation of the latter, there would have been a supply of *trained* teachers to conduct them. Good of any kind, although late, is, however, better late than never; and this day, in which we inaugurate the first Normal School in Prince Edward Island, may justly be regarded as the commencement of an auspicious era, whence to date in future the origin of many blessings, and the commencement of a perpetual course of improvement and prosperity to the people of this Colony. It belongs not to me to expound the principles or to enter into the details of the system we are met to inaugurate—for, in fact, I am not able to do so; but this inability on my part is of small moment, as the gentlemen who are at the head of the institution will, I am sure, leave nothing obscure concerning it, which can be made manifest by words. I will, however, before sitting down, take this opportunity, the only one which I have had, to state in public the high estimation in which I hold the character and abilities of Mr. Stow, the father of the Normal School System. By his devising of that system, and by the unwearied assiduity with which