

PREFATORY NOTE TO VOLUME FOURTEEN.

This Volume contains the records of some notable events in the Educational history of this Province.

In the Autumn of 1858, the Cope, or topmost, Stone, was placed, with much ceremony, on the principal Tower of the new Buildings of the University of Toronto, by His Excellency the Governor General. In June of the next year, the Authorities of the University and University College, took formal possession of their new Home. The Meeting of Convocation in that year was of more than usual interest, and hearty congratulations were exchanged between all parties concerned at the auspicious termination of the long period of doubt and uncertainty as to the "great work for which," as the Reverend Doctor McCaul stated, "he and others had so long, so anxiously, striven,—a day in which he had seen the realization of hopes, often disappointed, but never abandoned,—of intentions often frustrated, but never given up."

The speeches of those, who took part in the proceedings at the ceremony of placing the topmost stone on the new Building, and at the Convocation, were necessarily of a reminiscent and historical character, and, as such, were interesting and instructive,—particularly those of the Governor General, the President and the Vice-Chancellor of the University, and also of the Chief Superintendent of Education.

The Governor General, in speaking of the Romanesque style of Architecture of the new Building, characterized it as the "true type of modern civilization," and Doctor Wilson, in touching upon a kindred topic, spoke of "the baffling monuments reared for us in the old Nile Valley, which perpetuate the results attained in that cradle of the world's civilization." Doctor Ryerson called attention to the fact of the increased respect with which the Canadian people cherished their Institutions as a most hopeful sign for the future, and spoke of the increased financial support which the Grammar and Common Schools had received of late years.

Another notable event was the Establishment of the Model Grammar School, which was designed to be not only an effective model for the Grammar Schools of the Country, which it proved to be, but also an important Training School for the future Masters and Teachers of these Schools.

In Chapter XIII. I have given the testimony of the Chaplain of the Penitentiary, and of the Governors of several County Jails, of the great value and highly beneficial influence of the Libraries for the Prisoners, which had recently been established in these Institutions by the Education Department.

In Chapter XXIII. Doctor Workman gives some interesting information in regard to the use of Library Books by the less afflicted and convalescent Patients in the Toronto Lunatic Asylum.

Owing to the alleged determination of the Senate of the University of Toronto to give only a qualified effect to the provisions of the University Act