

officer in the customs at Toronto. She, two sons, and three daughter survive him. The elder son, who is a graduate of the University of Toronto, is a missionary on the Gaboon River in Equatorial Africa; the second resides in the United States; the daughters live in Canada.

The friend, of whose life we have just presented the skeletonized facts, was in the prime of his powers and at the height of his usefulness when so suddenly called away. Possessed of a large and genial nature, which had been thoroughly trained in early life and ripened by much subsequent reading, reflection, and experience, there was still in him the promise of a valuable future. His mind was still open to receive new ideas, or to modify old ones. His character was becoming every day better appreciated. The longer one knew him, the better one liked him. Whatever may have been his faults, his heart was always right. His instincts always placed him on the side of fair play and progress. He was in the highest sense of the term an honorable man. His life was marked in an especial manner by unostentatious piety and strong religious convictions. With the culture of a scholar he never wavered in belief of the revealed truths of Christianity, and, whenever it was proper, insisted upon the principles of the Christian faith as the foundation on which all education worthy of the name must be based. But with all this earnestness there was nothing austere in his nature, and he will long be remembered for his kindly humour. He is gone; and, though we who remain cannot understand why

The good die first,  
And those whose hearts are dry as summer's dust  
Burn to the socket,

yet it is a consolation to us, as we hope it will prove to his family, into the idyllic beauty of whose daily domestic existence death has intruded so rudely, that he still lives even on this earth for the benefit of others in the example which he has set of a life dominated by high principle and softened by all the amenities of a cultivated intellect and tender feelings.

#### REV. DR. RYERSON.

On the morning of Sunday, February 19th, Egerton Ryerson D.D., LL.D., passed away at the ripe age of 79 years. Dr. Ryerson was one of a class of men who are the peculiar products of a new country and a vigorous race. Strong, energetic, self-reliant, he could scarcely have failed in any land or under any circumstances to leave his mark upon the history of his country. But growing into manhood in Canada at a time when its institutions were just in their formative stage, and when the people themselves were passing through the first prolonged crisis of their historical development, he could not fail to be drawn into the whirl of its religious, political, and intellectual movements. In each of those three spheres of activity he found a field for the exercise of his talents, and scope for the full display of that manly strength which was probably the most marked feature of his character. The promise of that strength was given in the inflexibility of will and faithfulness to conscience which led him to choose rather to leave his father's house and carve out a path for himself in the world than to renounce

in obedience to a father's mandate, his adherence to the doctrines of Methodism, which he had accepted as the form of religion most commending itself to his convictions of truth. Telling manifestations of that same strength were given when he entered the political arena as the champion of the rights of Dissenters, when he, as perhaps became a faithful descendent of the Loyalists, set himself to counteract the aims and influence of William Lyon McKenzie and his followers, while none of those who from time to time crossed his path in his pursuits at a later period of his cherished educational ideas and theories, but must have recoiled under the weight of those vigorous blows which were sure to rain hard and fast upon him. Dr. Ryerson's career has been already set forth at length in the columns of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL and it is unnecessary that we should again outline even the salient features of a life so familiar to all our readers. His letters in reply to Archdeacon Strachan's ill-advised attack upon Dissenters; his communications to the London *Times* on Canadian Affairs shortly before the rebellion, and the host of able reports and trenchant replies to criticism which are scattered all along the record of his thirty-two years as Chief Superintendent of Education in Upper Canada, all alike testify to the writer's intellectual vigor, indomitable resolution and unyielding tenacity of purpose. These are the qualities that contribute mainly to success, especially when enlisted, as they undoubtedly were in the case of Dr. Ryerson, in the service of an unflinching conviction of duty. We mournfully pay our tribute of admiration and regard to the memory of an able and useful servant of the public. A great and a good man has fallen; a man to whom the Public School System of Ontario is more deeply indebted than to any other; who imparted to it an impetus which still urges it forward and which it will feel for long years, perhaps centuries to come. It is therefore meet that the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL should cast its wreath, as it does in all sincere respect, upon the tomb of the honored dead.

We are much pleased to notice that the Toronto Public School Board has taken steps to communicate with the other Boards throughout the Province, with a view to the erection of a monument to Dr. Ryerson's memory. Nothing could be more appropriate than that his statue should adorn the Normal School Square, and every teacher and ex-teacher in Ontario would do honor to himself in contributing towards its erection.

#### THE EDUCATIONAL REPORT.

The Report of the Minister of Education for 1880 and 1881 is a volume of upwards of 400 pages. It may be regarded, as to some extent, a new departure. Instead of confining himself to a mere exhibit of the legislation and work of the Department during the period, Mr. Crooks has given us in addition a repository of general and statistical information on a variety of Educational matters. The volume cannot have been produced without a great expenditure of thought and toil, and gives us the impression of great industry in the offices from which it emanates. It consists of four principal parts. Part I., respecting the Education Department, gives us an account of the proceedings during the years 1880 and 1881; statistics of Public, Separate, and High School during the year 1880; and a detailed comparison between the work and methods of the last five years under the old system, and the first five under the new.