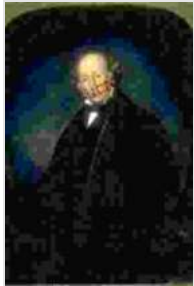


# Sir Edmund Head: Scholarly Governor and Advocate for Education



## Sir Edmund Head: A Scholarly Governor by Gabriela Mistral

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2424 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 389 pages



Sir Edmund Walker Head, 8th Baronet (1805-1868), was a prominent British colonial administrator, scholar, and advocate for education who served as the ninth Governor General of British North America from 1854 to 1861. His tenure was marked by significant contributions to the development of higher education in Canada, particularly the establishment of the University of Toronto.

## Early Life and Education

Edmund Head was born into a wealthy and influential family in Kent, England. He received a classical education at Eton College and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he excelled in classics and mathematics. Head's intellectual prowess and academic achievements laid the foundation for his future career as a scholar and administrator.

## Career in Colonial Administration

After graduating from Cambridge, Head entered the British Colonial Service. He served in various capacities in the West Indies and South Africa before being appointed Governor of New Brunswick in 1848. As Governor, Head played a crucial role in the development of the colony, promoting economic growth and educational reform.

### **Governor General of British North America**

In 1854, Head was appointed Governor General of British North America, the highest official in the colony. His tenure coincided with a period of heightened political instability and economic unrest. However, Head's calm and judicious leadership helped to maintain stability and promote progress.

### **Legacy of Educational Reform**

One of Head's enduring legacies is his role in the establishment of the University of Toronto. In 1827, he oversaw the merger of King's College and the University of Toronto, creating a new institution that combined the strengths of both schools. Head believed that a strong university system was essential for the intellectual, cultural, and economic development of the colony.

Under Head's patronage, the University of Toronto flourished. He supported the expansion of academic programs, the hiring of renowned scholars, and the construction of new facilities. Head's commitment to academic excellence helped to establish the university as a leading center of learning in North America.

### **Advocacy for Public Education**

In addition to his support for higher education, Head was a strong advocate for public education. He believed that every child, regardless of social

class, should have access to a quality education. During his tenure, he worked to improve the quality and availability of elementary and secondary schools in British North America.

Head's efforts contributed to the establishment of a comprehensive education system in Canada. He believed that an educated citizenry was essential for the success and stability of a democratic society.

## Later Years and Death

After completing his term as Governor General, Head returned to England, where he continued to pursue his scholarly interests. He published several books on history and classical literature and served as a director of the British Museum. Head died in 1868 at the age of 63.

## Legacy

Sir Edmund Head is remembered as a distinguished colonial administrator, scholar, and advocate for education. His contributions to the development of the University of Toronto and his support for public education left a lasting legacy on the Canadian education system. Head's belief in the power of education to transform lives and build a better society remains an inspiration to this day.



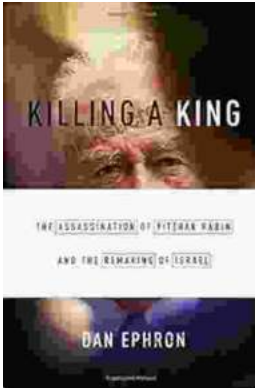
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