

"The head master of a public school in a wealthy western county has been receiving \$425 a year, or a trifle more than \$8 a week, in return for his services as instructor of the youth of the neighbourhood. Just before the holidays an educational tramp offered to undertake the work for \$400 per annum, or at the rate of fifty cents per week less than the master was receiving. Now, if the trustees had been mean men they would have accepted the offer at once. But as there is not a spark of meanness in their composition, they determined to wait upon the schoolmaster and inform him of the lower offer they had received. They waited upon him accordingly, and told him that he could either continue in his position at a reduced salary or give place to a cheaper man. As the schoolmaster had a family depending upon him, he was compelled to accept the lower salary. Next year the trustees will be wondering how it is the schoolmaster does not perform his duties so heartily and so cheerfully as formerly. But they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are keeping him humble. There is nothing like compelling the minister and the teacher to practise humility."

It is my belief that the men who entered into the above negotiation should be closely watched when nearing a neighbour's hen-roost, and that their butter should always be tested by the market weigh-master. They would haggle with the gatekeeper of Paradise, or try to slip in, toll free, by the back door.

How is it to be wondered, when the mental and bodily wear and tear and worry to which your profession are subjected are considered, that the average duration of the lives of its members falls so much below that of many other classes of the community? This fact is made abundantly manifest by the figures shewn in the annual reports of our Provincial Registrar. I trust you will not suspect that I desire to create alarm by the statements I am now about to make, for I merely desire to show you the truth, which can never do ultimate harm; and if I may, to any extent, impress on the public mind the destructive results of your peculiar labour, and the moral and physical disadvantages under which it is performed, and thereby awaken a warmer sympathy with your misfortunes, I shall hope to have atoned for any wounding of your feelings, or any trespass of politeness which I may undesirably commit.

In the columns of the Registrar's tables of deaths of teachers in this Province, for the four years ending with 1879, the numbers stand as follows:—

In 1876 there were reported	51 deaths.
" 1877 " "	45 "
" 1878 " "	38 "
" 1879 " "	56 "
Total	190

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