

*D. Bryant, Esq., Ameliasburgh*: "Several sections in this township have adopted the true principle of supporting their schools, and that is by a direct tax. I hope ere long to see all the schools in our township supported in like manner."

*James Clapperton, Esq., Augusta*: "Twelve of our schools have decided in favour of the free school system this year."

*George Hart, Esq., Percy*: "This township has at last begun to arouse from its lethargy in regard to education. At the annual meeting in January for the election of Councillors, I had an opportunity of addressing the electors, urging upon them the absolute necessity of having a good sound education for the rising generation; and, in order to accomplish this aright, to abolish the old rate-bill system, and in its place to establish free schools—taxing all according to property. Since then, the whole of the sections have had special meetings, and the result is that eight out of the ten have adopted free schools. Will you inform me, can the municipal Council tax the other two in order that all the schools may be free?" [The Council can only tax the section at the request of the trustees, on behalf of the inhabitants. See 1st clause of the 18th section of the school Act. *Ed. J. of Ed.*]

*Francis Graham, Esq., Rochester*: "Since the enactment of the new school law, educational affairs have assumed a much more cheering aspect, and more particularly since the appearance of your 'Address to the Inhabitants of U. C.' on free schools. [See *Journal of Education* for January, 1849.] I can assure you that your labour has not been in vain. Never was an address received with more enthusiasm by any community than by the people of this township; and every parent's heart swells with gratitude to you for the eloquent and able manner in which you have advocated the principle of a cheap, universal, and sound education for the young, who, in a few years, must rise up to fill our places. Solely from your address, and from the manner in which the subject is handled, sections 1 and 2 have adopted the free school system. Since these free schools were opened, children may be found in attendance from the remotest parts of the sections."

*Rev. John W. Smith, Haldimand*: "Several of the sections have adopted the free school system, thereby increasing the attendance at school—in some cases even more than doubling their former numbers. I have no doubt the general adoption of this system would soon have the effect of putting all the children of school age under instruction some part of the year. The appearance of the new school Act supplies a desideratum, and I welcomed it as the dawning of better days on the youth of Canada."

*Wendlin Schuler, Esq., Wilmot*: "A few years ago we had only 8-10 schools; now we have 19. There is one thing still wished for by a great many, and that is—free schools."

*John Unsworth, Esq., Howard*: "There are two schools in this township conducted upon the free school principle, I am happy to say, and they are crowded to overflowing. It has also been carried in another section, and moved in another, which I might term the metropolitan school in this township."

*W. S. Macdonald, Esq., Leeds and Landsdown, front*: "Public attention appears directed to the subject of education, and from this I indulge in hopes for the future. The present law will, I trust, be allowed a fair trial at least, and I feel assured that its general features will be acceptable to the country."

*Rev. Wm. Fraser, W. Guillimbury*: "In the three sections in this township the principle of laying the burthen of education upon the people has been adopted. It is evident, from the immediate effect of the measure in those instances, that it is preëminently the school-filling plan. One of the schools (at Bond Head) last year was attended by about 35 or 40, now has nearly double the first number on its benches. The sight was pleasing. I have not much doubt, that the demonstration which will thus be given of the beneficial effects of the system, will increase its popularity and extend its adoption."

*George Alexander, Esq., Blandford, &c.*: "I may remark of the new school Act, that I have had occasion to test many of its clauses in my official visits to the different sections, and have found them admirably adopted to the present wants and interests of the country."

*Rev. Thomas J. Hodgskin, Etobicoke*: "I took the earliest opportunity of delivering, in each school section, the lecture required by law, and, at its close, endeavoured to stimulate the audience to

effort in procuring school apparatus, &c. In one instance £8 was raised by voluntary subscription, and the school is consequently well furnished with maps, &c. I have done my utmost to extend oral instruction to make the school interesting to the pupils, as well as profitable to them. The salaries of teachers are improving, and the interest in the subject of education is deepening."

*David P. Brown, Esq., Crowland*: "There are three schools in this township conducted on the free school principle, and I believe that a large majority of the inhabitants of the several school sections are favourable to the plan, but many of them do not like to oppose their neighbours by supporting it with their votes."

*Rev. James Jackson, Middleton*: "The people are very much pleased with the new school Act; and I have endeavoured to encourage them, under the provisions of it, to do all they can to educate the rising generation. There is one amendment yet, however, that is desired, viz.: Legislative authority to tax ratable property to support the schools entirely, and let them all be free."

*Edward Byrnes, Esq., North Burgess*: "It was a great obstacle in the way of trustees, that the old law did not empower them to procure apportions for their section; but now that the new Act places trustees in a more favourable position for the efficient discharge of their duties, it is to be hoped that henceforth we will have a far greater improvement in our schools."

*John Beatty, junior, Esq., M. D., Cobourg*: "Our common school system for Cobourg requires a fundamental reorganization. I hope this year will witness the commencement of such a movement."

*Thomas Cross, Esq., M. D., Tilbury East, &c.*: "In many places I have had large meetings; and much satisfaction is expressed with that provision of the Act which renders it imperative on the Superintendent, thus to meet the inhabitants of every section, and address, and confer with, them on school matters. The privilege contained in the 7th and 9th clauses of the 10th section of the school Act, has been very generally acted upon in this locality for the current year; and as an evidence of its salutary effects, and the inconceivably greater impulse it has given to education, I may instance the astonishing fact, that schools, which reported an average attendance of from 15 to 20 pupils during the past year, are now literally crowded."

*Board of School Trustees, Bytown*: "The most prominent question under the consideration of the Board for 1850 was: 'Shall we have free schools, or not?' Although this Board has done nothing further than to discuss the question, from the fact of the short tenure of office of three of its members, yet they cannot separate without recommending it to the Board of Trustees for 1851, as the only effectual system of common school education, and the one calculated to afford satisfaction to all classes."

*Rev. John Flood, Nepean, &c.*: "The children in the townships that have heartily complied with the school Act, are deriving more profit in six months, than the others do in nine. In the former, there is about school matters, a life and activity which are already producing great improvement."

*P. L. Smith, Esq., Vespra, &c.*: "The condition of the schools under my superintendence are in a progressive state, and there is an almost unanimous feeling among all the school sections in favour of free schools, in two of which sections at the annual school meetings, the free school system has been unanimously adopted; and will, I expect, before long, become general throughout this country."

*Rev. David Caw, Paris*: "Our schools will be conducted on the free school system next year; a great majority of the rate-payers approve of that plan. The diffusion of knowledge respecting education, the power with which trustees are invested by the last school Act and other concurring causes, will give a new and powerful impulse to education in Canada."

*Rev. Denis Begley, Lochiel*: "The schools of this township, generally speaking, are of an inferior kind; but I am of opinion that they will improve under the new school Act."

*Rev. Thomas Williams, Fullarton, &c.*: "I am happy to add that in this township there is being made an effort to furnish the schools with school apparatus, &c.; the municipality having levied a tax for that special purpose. The school-lectures, I think, are an excellent institution, and will effect much. When people come to hear them, they always produce a good effect and stir up a better feeling."

*Nial Eastman, Esq., Bosanquet*: "The free school tax levied last year worked admirably well. It had the effect of increasing the