

without their being paid a larger sum. This anomaly should be discontinued, securing justice and equality to all.

Irregular attendance and a remedy therefor continue to engross attention. Though marked improvement has taken place in this county, there is still room for greater. If the public were alive to duty, and willing to perform it, there would be no necessity for action. Whilst we labour assiduously to induce the performance of duty, we succeed with those who are susceptible to the call of conscience; but we must remember that "law is for the lawless and disobedient," and that there are many such in regard to the duty of educating their families; to reach such there *must* be law. The question that appears to be exercising the judgment of Educationists, is, not so much the propriety of a Compulsory Education Law, as the best character or form of such a measure.

There appeared in a recent English Paper under a statement headed "Compulsory Education in England," the following: "The enforcement of the Compulsory Education System has resulted in increasing the attendance of children upon the schools in London by 100,000. The average increase in London and 10 other cities was 50 per cent.; in Birmingham 130 per cent., in Hull 99, and in Sheffield 120 per cent." If "like causes produce like results," and if our circumstances are at all similar, might not similar enactments produce like results in Nova Scotia?

The difficulty of dealing with the "street Arabs" that are found in streets of even our villages, calls for some more direct and efficacious mode of dealing with them, and "a truant law" seems to hold out a hopeful remedy.

In answer to the argument that a Compulsory Attendance Law is harsh and disagreeable, and interferes with true liberty, the man possessed of property but without children replies, "Is it not just as harsh and disagreeable to me to be compelled to pay for educating other persons children, and to have my local taxes increased in consequence of their not attending school?" The same principle of compulsion applies in both cases. A Compulsory Attendance Law seems a necessary sequence of the compulsory support of education.

Salaries.—In Winter the amount paid by Trustees from local sources was \$12,618.06, and in Summer \$12,375.11. Amount for the year \$24,993.17, being only \$9.44 in excess of that paid in 1875. The amount raised by assessment by vote of rate-payers was \$21,126.41. The total receipts from all sources amount to \$40,557.66. Debts paid off \$1288.74; expended in repairs \$869.52; for fuel \$1595.08; in buildings \$4480.07. Total expenditure \$37,380.29. The receipts exceed those of 1875 by \$5834.49, and the expenditure \$184.66. The indebtedness of sections has increased \$557.08.

To expect that universal satisfaction with the school law, and with the manner in which it is carried out, should exist, would be unreasonable. There is no law, human or divine, that has satisfied all. Many in this County regret that a portion of the Provincial Press that professes impartiality and assumes to mould and to guide public sentiment in both politics and religion, should persistently indulge in depreciating the working of our school system, and in extolling everything in certain other countries, some of which appreciate our system and express their approval both of the system and of its operation.

Let us all devote our influence in a friendly spirit to the perfecting both of the system and the working thereof. It is not so much legislation that is now required, as energy, determination and prudence in carrying out the laws and regulations established.

It has pleased the Almighty to remove by death Miss Mary B. MacKay, of New Glasgow, a Grade C teacher of several years' experience. She was an amiable, devoted and successful teacher—possessed of a power of will and determination which she devoted to education and to the advancement of temperance principles among the young.

In conclusion I would reiterate the request that the Legislature authorize