

efficiency of this part of our Common School System will be considerably improved by the appointment of Visitors. Some, indeed, are of opinion that neither Clergymen, nor Magistrates, nor Township Councillors will visit Schools without being paid for it. I charitably and confidently hope otherwise. At all events, the modification in the law, in respect to the office of Township Superintendents, was considered necessary and advocated by the leaders of both parties in the House of Assembly; but whether the substitute provided by law for that office is efficient, or whether it will be desirable to restore the office itself, time alone can furnish evidence to decide. But I venture to hope much from the services of Visitors, and the Quarterly Public Examination of Schools. Yet, your own inspection of the Schools, though necessarily infrequent, must be chiefly relied upon as the basis of your judgment, and the source of your information, as to the character and methods of school instruction, discipline, management, accommodations, &c.: and on this subject, we ought not to content ourselves with those exterior and general facts which have hitherto been the special, and almost only subjects of School Reports, such as the number of schools, that of pupils, their age, the sums expended, &c. These items of information are of unquestionable importance; and every means ought to be employed to render them more exact and complete. But it is not of less importance to know the *interior régime* of the Schools—the aptitude, the zeal, the deportment of the Teachers—their relations with the pupils, the Trustees and the neighbourhood—the progress and attainments of the pupils, and, in a word, the whole moral and social character and results of the instruction given, as far as can be ascertained. Such information cannot be acquired from Reports and Statistical Tables; it can only be obtained by special visits, and by personal conversation and observation—by an examination of the several classes, in their different branches of study, so as to enable you to ascertain the degree and efficiency of the instruction imparted.

In the Inspection of Schools, I would suggest something like the following order and subjects of inquiry and examination:

I. *Mechanical Arrangements*.—The tenure of the property: the materials, dimensions and plan of the buildings; how lighted, warmed, and ventilated; if any class-rooms are provided for the separate instruction of part of the children; if there is a lobby, or closet, for hats, cloaks, bonnets, &c.; how the desks and seats are arranged and constructed, and with what conveniences; what arrangements for the Teacher; what play-ground is provided; what gymnastic apparatus; if