

ern Boards at their meetings in May and November, a marked improvement in several schools in many of those points which constitute excellence and ensure success. The methods of teaching are better, the order good and without constraint, because the pupils are kept busy and their energies well directed. In fact, most of our schools shew some signs of progress in the right direction, although in varying degrees. When we consider that we have 15 sections paying an average salary of \$60, and 10 more an average of \$50, we see the necessity of patience and consideration.

As the present seems an opportune time for settling the ground of the Teacher's authority, and defining its limits, allow me to call your attention to what appears to be a growing disposition on the part of many to interfere with the rights of Teachers in the sphere of discipline. Three cases have come under my immediate notice during the past year. One was that of a teacher who was fined most unjustly for a case, similar to that brought before the Halifax City Board. Another, was that of a most excellent teacher, who left in the middle of the term, rather than submit to an unwarrantable interference, which would have so weakened her authority, as to render the maintenance of order and discipline an impossibility. In the third instance, a Trustee entered the school, and, in the presence of the scholars, took the teacher to task, in the most insolent manner. The matter was taken up, and after receiving a lawyer's letter, the trustee was obliged to make an apology. It seems to me that there should be no uncertainty in regard to this question, and as I heartily concur in the Report unanimously adopted by the City Board I shall give it *verbatim* :

"The North District Visiting Committee reported on the case of the punishment of the boy Hawse by Mr. Elliot, of Beech Street School, for insubordination during school hours, for which he was fined \$10 in the Police Court, submitting the evidence given before the Committee, and a certified copy of the evidence taken in the Police Court, and stated :

"The Committee in submitting this report would be perfectly satisfied to allow the evidence to speak for itself, were they not strongly impressed with the fact that the Stipendiary Magistrate in sentencing Mr. Elliot to pay a fine of \$10 and costs, has inflicted a serious injury upon the discipline of the Public Schools of this city; for, if teachers in the employ of this Board and carrying out its instructions in the maintenance of order and discipline by the moderate use of corporal punishment, as has been shown by the evidence in this case, are to be dragged to the Police Court, and summarily mulcted in heavy fines, your Committee feel that the efficiency of our Public Schools is at an end. The Committee cannot close this report without expressing, not only their fullest confidence in the uniform kindness and attention shown by Mr. Elliot to his pupils, but their entire approbation of the course pursued by him in the matter for which he has been (to say the least) so summarily and harshly treated.

"The Committee also recommend that, in the interest of the schools the amount of \$10, fine and costs in this case inflicted upon their teacher, be refunded to Mr. Elliot, and that he be furnished with a copy of this report.

"This report was unanimously adopted."

In the same connection a clause of a memorandum from the Minister of Education for Ontario is so much to the point that I will here transcribe it :—

"The law and regulations recognise the master's position to be that of a public officer, and hence it is his duty by legitimate and proper means to discharge the functions of his office satisfactorily. For this purpose he must be permitted to exercise all the necessary authority, and to vindicate it when required, by such measure of punishment or means as a prudent and judicious teacher would think best in the particular circumstances. Without prescribing any details in this respect, the regulations leave the authority of the master paramount, except in the case of suspension, where they define the circumstances which may warrant this, and the single case in which expulsion can be ordered."

City Schools.—As the Commissioners and Supervisor publish a full and ex-