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The July, August, and September numbers of the *Journal of Education* are printed and sent forth together, in order that the whole of the Catalogue of Books for Public School Libraries, and the Circulars and Regulations respecting the modes of their establishment and management may be laid before the local municipal and school authorities at one and the same time.

N.B.—No Book mentioned in this Catalogue will be disposed of to any private individual, or for any other purpose than for that of Public Libraries.

OFFICIAL CIRCULARS FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO TOWNSHIP COUNCILS AND TRUSTEES, UPON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

1. To the Reeve of each Township Municipality in Upper Canada.

SIR,—I herewith transmit to you, to be laid before the Council over which you have been chosen to preside, a copy of the Catalogue of the Books which have been sanctioned, according to law, for Public School Libraries, and also a copy of the Regulations according to which these Libraries are to be established and conducted—thus completing the arrangements for giving effect to the last, if not the most important, branch of our system of Public Elementary Instruction.

2. By the Regulations, it will be seen that the widest discretion possible is confided to the Township Municipalities, in the kind of Libraries and mode of establishing them, while the duties of all parties concerned in the management and use of these Libraries are so fully and plainly stated, as to prevent all doubts or mistakes respecting them. The Local Councils and Trustees are relieved from the responsibility and odium of imposing penalties or forfeitures in any case whatever; these are all specified in the General Regulations; and it only remains for the Municipal and School authorities to investigate and decide upon the facts of each case of alleged delinquency, and act ac-

cordingly. The most of these Regulations—especially those which relate to the forfeitures incurred for the detention, loss, or abuse of books—are adopted from the State of New York where much experience has been acquired in the management of Public School Libraries. And that experience has shown that a strict adherence to these Regulations is absolutely necessary to the maintenance of harmony among all parties concerned, and to the preservation and usefulness of the Libraries.

3. In preparing these regulations, I have sought to give effect to the views and feelings which were generally expressed at nearly all the County School Conventions which I attended last winter. But these regulations are necessarily an experiment in this country. It is very possible, if not probable, that experience may suggest some modifications of them. I shall, in common with the other members of the Council of Public Instruction, be happy to be favored with the results of your own experience and observation on the operation of these regulations; for I am intensely anxious that we should not only have, in all its branches and aspects, the best school system in the world, but that our fellow-citizens at large should feel that it is so, and that it is their own—the creation of their joint counsels, efforts, and patriotism—their own priceless legacy to posterity.

4. In regard to the selection and procuring of the books mentioned in the catalogue, I may observe, that it is not easy to conceive, and it is needless that I should attempt to describe, the amount of time, labour, and anxiety which has been expended in devising and maturing this system of Public School Libraries, in making arrangements in Great Britain and the United States for procuring these books on advantageous terms, and in selecting them from a much larger number of works on the same subjects; nor am I yet able myself to form an accurate idea of the extent of the additional labour and responsibility incurred by making this Department the medium and agent of providing the Public School Libraries throughout the Province with the Books for which the Municipalities may think proper to apply. But on no part of the work which I have undertaken, do I reflect with more interest and pleasure than on that of rendering accessible to all the Municipalities of Upper Canada—even the most remote—books of instruction and useful entertainment which would not have otherwise come within their reach, and that at prices which will save them thousands per annum in the purchase of them—thus adding to their resources of knowledge and enjoyment by the variety and