

one general statute. The original School Law of the State of New York has been thus modified and amended, to a very great extent, in its details, in 1841 and afterwards in 1844. We see it now recommended that these several enactments should, for the sake of public convenience, be reduced to one general law; and it is also urged that the office of State Superintendent of Common Schools should be separated from that of State Secretary, as is the case in both the Eastern and Western States, and as is required for the efficiency of the office—instead of having its duties discharged, as heretofore, by a Deputy Superintendent. In some cases of late years, State Boards of Education have been created; but not for the general administration of the School Law (which is never taken out of the hands of the Government), but for the special purposes of Normal Schools and Books. During the last few months the Provincial Superintendent has visited the several Districts of Upper Canada, with a view of conferring, in the most public and unreserved manner, on the subject of our School Laws as well as of our Schools. It was found that many erroneous impressions existed as to the nature and objects of some of their provisions; but in the course of these conversations, in which the experience and views of numerous most intelligent individuals were elicited, not only was a most gratifying interest manifested, but valuable hints and suggestions were offered, which, we trust, will be improved to practical purposes. After the fullest explanations and exchange of thought at these meetings, the general conclusions appeared to be those which are well expressed in the following letter from the very intelligent and efficient Superintendent of Common Schools in the District of Niagara,—a District second to none in Upper Canada in the state of its Schools, and probably in advance of any other District in respect to a number of excellent *School-houses*. The sentiments of Mr. D'EVERARDO's letter were not only expressed in the large and influential meeting held in that District, but also have been expressed by the Municipal Councils of that and several other Districts. Mr. D'EVERARDO's letter was designed as a substitute for personal attendance at the School Meeting of his District. It is gratifying to know that the afflictive cause of his absence from that meeting has been removed. We hope that his intimation as to the noble co-operation of persons in authority will have their due weight with all parties concerned throughout Upper Canada.

“FONTHILL, October 25th, 1847.

“SIR,—It has been my misfortune to be confined to my house for upwards of two months by a severe attack of fever; hence I am, I regret to say, unable to attend your meeting in Niagara to-day.

“I can assure you that my anxiety to be there has been very great; but the unfavourableness of the weather, and my extreme weakness, render it impossible for me to go; therefore, I hope to be excused.

“The objects of the present meeting are, as I understand, among other things, to obtain information with regard to the practical working of the existing School Laws, and to hear amendments suggested.

“Touching those points, I beg to observe that, as a whole, in this District, the Law is working quite satisfactorily, and our Schools are more generally open and better attended than they were last year, and I think that any change in the Statutes for the establishment and maintenance of Common Schools would operate prejudicially here.

“There are some persons who, from interested motives, seek the total abrogation of all School Laws; there are others who are always dissatisfied with what exists; but I am persuaded that a large majority of those who really desire education for their children