

—one from Kingston, showing the number of children not attending any School; but the columns under this head are blank in the returns from Toronto.

There can, therefore, be no doubt as to both the authority and duty of your Board of Trustees to procure and make returns of the number of the children that attend no School, and of the cause of their non-attendance.

The law may be considered defective in one respect, that no penalty is authorised to be imposed upon those parents or householders who refuse to answer the questions which the officer of the School Board may propose; but I have never heard of any complaint from any part of the Province on that account. The complaint has been of the *trouble* and labour of procuring the information required.

I am glad that the Toronto Board of School Trustees are now resolved to obtain this information as far as possible, and for a specific and important purpose.

I have for some years pressed this subject again and again upon the attention of the Government, with all the examples and authorities in its behalf which I had been able to obtain, and then, to remove the chief objection which had been urged against my recommendation, (namely popular opposition to it,) I brought it under the consideration of the various