

Thus a balance remains of £2510, of which £1500 might be available for the endowment of Professorships in the proposed Theological Seminaries. The remainder being left unappropriated to meet the expenses of the Normal School, and others which may not have been provided for in the details of the common school system, as compiling and printing.

Respecting these recommendations of the Commissioners, we shall take the liberty of saying a few words. In all projected systems of education, two things are to be considered: 1st, what is desirable, and 2nd, what is practicable. Now we doubt not that the Commissioners are deeply impressed with the conviction, that much, very much more than they have recommended is desirable; but we think they have erred in making far too low an estimate of what is practicable. The claim which they set up for the School-master for instance, that his income "should at least be equal to that of a common labourer," is singularly modest, and we agree with the *Review* in thinking, that it would be improper to deduct any thing from his proposed scanty income, for the formation of School Libraries, for which necessary purpose other funds should be provided. According to the above calculation, the average annual income of Teachers would thus be £63, with free house, and the use of two acres of land, one of which, however, should, we think, be devoted to a play ground and garden for the use of the scholars. In some cases the income stated might be increased when the female school was taught by the School-master's wife; but this, as the reviewer justly remarks, "would seldom happen, as a woman with a family would not be at liberty to take charge of a school."

We ask our readers to compare the plan sketched by the Commissioners with the Prussian system detailed in our last numbers, and make up their minds which of the two in their leading features (for both might be modified with advantage) is most desirable for this country.

In Canada the wages of labouring and handicraftsmen are from 3s. to 7s. 6d. a day—in Prussia we believe from 8d. to 1s. 3d. It remains to be seen which country can maintain the best system of Education.

The whole sum estimated by the Commissioners to be devoted to the great business of Education by the people of Upper Canada, either as individuals or collectively, is about £80,000 or not much more than four shillings annually for each individual! yet this same people expend at least four times as much upon intoxicating drinks. If the inhabitants of Canada could only be persuaded to support schools instead of taverns, they might have the best system of Education in the world without any additional drain on their purses.

#### SCHOOL ROOMS.

The *Charleston Courier* has the following extracts from a letter of Dr. Samuel B. Woodward, Superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital, at Worcester, Mass., to the Secretary of the Board of Education of said State, in reply to some queries respecting the construction of School Rooms:

"1st. As to the ill effects of high and narrow benches, and seats without backs.

"High and narrow seats are not only extremely uncomfortable for the young scholar, tending constantly to make him restless and noisy, disturbing his temper, and preventing his attention to his books, but they have also a direct tendency to produce deformity in the limbs. If the seat is too narrow, half the thigh only rests upon it; if too high, the feet cannot reach the floor—the consequence is, that the limbs are suspended in the centre of the thighs. Now, as the limbs of children are pliable or flexible, they are easily made to grow out of shape, and become crooked by such an awkward and unnatural position.

"Seats without backs, have an equally unfavorable influence upon the spinal column. If no rest is afforded the backs of children

while seated, they almost necessarily assume a bent and crooked position; such a position often assumed, or long continued, tends to that deformity, which has become extremely common with children these modern times, and leads to disease of the spine, in innumerable instances, especially with delicate female children.

"The seats in school rooms should be so constructed that the whole thigh can rest upon them, and at the same time the feet stand firmly on the floor. All seats should have backs high enough to reach the shoulder blades. Low backs, although better than none, are far less easy and useful than high ones, and will not give pain and uneasiness after sitting a considerable time.—Young children should be permitted to change their position often, to stand on their feet, to march, and to visit the play ground. One hour is as long as any child under ten years of age should be confined at once; and four hours is as long as he should be confined to his seat in one day."

To this let us add a few lines from a lecture on Physical Education, by that celebrated Surgeon, John E. Warner, of Boston. He says:

"The postures which children assume, while seated at their studies, are not indifferent. They should be frequently warned against the practice of maintaining the head and neck long in a stooping position; and the disposition to it should be lessened, by giving a proper elevation and slope to the desk; and the seat should have a support or back.

"In the course of my observations, I have been able to satisfy myself that about half the young females, brought up as they are at present, undergo some visible and obvious change of structure—that a considerable number are the subjects of great and permanent deviations, and that not a few entirely lose their health, from the manner in which they are reared.

"I feel warranted in the assertion, that of the well educated females within my sphere of experience, about one half are affected with some degree of distortion of the spine.

"The lateral distortion of the spine is almost wholly confined to females, and is scarcely ever found existing in the other sex.

"The difference results from a difference of habits, during the school education."

**CONNECTICUT SCHOOL FUND.**—This fund is now over two millions of dollars, and nearly all productive. The State during the present year pays out to schools one hundred and twelve thousand dollars, and in addition to this, one half of the interest arising on the deposit fund received from the United States, is appropriated for the support of common schools.

**NORMAL SCHOOLS IN FRANCE.**—"There are in France," says the *Moniteur Parisien*, "78 primary normal or model schools, designed to form primary teachers. The number of pupils educating for teachers in these establishments is about 2400. 800 pupils annually obtain brevets of capacity, either for primary elementary instruction or primary superior instruction. 2356 places of primary teachers become disposable each year, either by deaths or resignation, or new creations. The number of pupils who receive brevets annually as teachers being 860, there are 1496 places to dispose of, either for youths who are intended for primary instruction without passing through the normal schools, or for religious corporations."

"Speak to a child—any child—in a calm, positive, clear voice, and he will be sure to obey you, if you speak once; and only once.—Mrs. Signoury.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Lord John Russell has announced the intention of the British Government to modify the corn laws by substituting a moderate fixed rate of duty for the present fluctuating scale. This announcement, as may be supposed, has caused a very great amount of excitement throughout Great Britain; and it is believed the present parliament will be dissolved, and the sense of the people taken upon the subject by a new election.

Active hostilities have once more broken out between Great Britain and China, owing to the refusal of the Chinese Emperor to ratify the treaty entered into by his commissioner Keshen. The Bogue