

be succeeded by a comparatively pleasurable and successful labour. But reasoning and persuasion are the appropriate means of attaining this great public object. Education was never yet promoted by harsh means, and least of all in respect to the subject on which I am now remarking. Besides, the Government, as much as the people—and even more—has left to chance the selection and supply of School Books—(a provision for which ought to have been co-existent with our Common School Law,)—and the same reasons, affectionately and earnestly pressed, which have induced the Government to adopt so essential an improvement, will induce the Trustees and their constituents to share the advantages of it.

She next point to which I would advert, relates to Certificates of qualification to Teachers, the giving of which, except in the lowest and most limited degree, is confided to District Superintendents. If the employment of Teachers is with Trustees, the guardianship of their character and qualifications is chiefly with you. A serious responsibility, and one which requires no small degree of judgment and firmness properly to discharge. It may be assumed that your own estimate of the character and qualifications of a Common School Teacher will, to a great extent, be that of the public around you. The more elevated the standard (provided it is practical) of a Teacher's character and qualifications, the more respectable and desirable does the profession become, and the better will it be remunerated. The law makes special mention of the *moral character* of Teachers—thus protecting the rising generation against one of the greatest of evils—an *immoral* Teacher. The Teacher's religious faith is, likewise, required to be stated in his Certificate of qualification. You, and not the applicant, or his friends, are of course, to judge of the testimony furnished as to his *moral character*. It is therefore suggested to you, whether you should not require each applicant to produce a certificate from his Pastor of the religious faith which he professes, as to his moral character. Other testimonials are useful, but, I think, this ought not to be dispensed with. It is invariably required of applicants by the National Board of Education in Ireland. As to qualifications of Teachers, *ability to teach* is, doubtless, one of the most important. But on this point, I need add nothing to what I have said in my Report on Elementary Instruction, and in the accompanying Forms and Regulations; and to your own judgment and experience, this important interest of thousands may, I doubt not, be safely confided.

Another most important, and perhaps the most laborious branch of your duties, is *the inspection of Schools*. It is to be hoped that the