

From whatever source the funds may be derived, each teacher should be secured in an annual allowance of £25 to £40 per annum, independent of school fees.

In extensive, or remote townships, where the Children are widely dispersed it may be useful to divide the attendance of the teacher, giving perhaps two-thirds of his time to the most populous portion of the township, and there is but little doubt that an assistant or monitor will occupy the vacant station during the absence of the regular teachers. Encouragement should be afforded to respectable female schools for instruction in sewing and other useful and domestic pursuits.

The school Books employed in the great sessional school of Edinburgh, under John Wood, Esq. deserve the highest commendation.

[Signed] ADAM FERGUSON.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
Toronto, 9th December, 1839.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 2nd instant was handed to me in the House of Assembly in the afternoon of Saturday the 7th, and I hasten to reply as soon as in my power ; and with as few words as I can.

My opinion is that the present provision for Education in this Province is by no means adequate to its wants. Beside the sums derivable from the sales of school lands, and applicable only to District and Grammar Schools, an annual appropriation from the Provincial Treasury ought to be permanently secured by law and distributed among the several districts in proportion to the population of each, and be under the superintendence of a General Board of Education, to be established at Toronto, whose duty it should be to require periodical and minute information from the several District Boards, with the view of understanding thoroughly the state of Education at the Grammar Schools of each District, and that the general board should have the power of establishing grammar schools and affording them assistance from the funds under their control in such large villages as grow up at distant points from the district towns, and in which the inhabitants shall at their own expense erect suitable buildings for such grammar schools.

The General Board should have the power of establishing rules and regulations for the several grammar schools, and to prescribe the manner of tuition as well as the books to be used. The District Board should have the power of regulating, from time to time the amount of tuition fees, and also the power of admitting, free from charge, a number of charity scholars from the common schools.

In regard to Common Schools, nothing is more desirable than that a Normal School should be established by law, the exclusive business of which normal school should be the education of promising youths, selected from the common schools of various districts and educated purposely for masters of the common schools throughout the Province. By this arrangement a constant supply of teachers could be afforded, and they would no doubt be preferred by the inhabitants of the several townships.

I cannot conceive any thing more wanting in efficiency than our present system for common school education.