

REGULATIONS REGARDING THE READING OF THE BIBLE AND PRAYER IN THE PUBLIC AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

No. 7. "The clergy of any denomination or their authorized representatives, shall have the right to give religious instruction to the pupils of their own church, in each school-house, at least once a week, after the hour of closing of the school in the afternoon."

With pleasure We bear testimony to the courteous demeanor of all and every of the school teachers. We regret our inability to say the same of the Trustees, a number of whom, on notice, of the priest's visit being given, hastened to the school to obstruct him in the discharge of his duty. One of these men misbehaved in grossly offensive fashion by frequently interrupting, carping, contradicting and in divers ways worrying the young and timid clergyman, whose gentle remonstrance and final appeal to his rights under the Regulations of the Department of Education, (the copy of which he produced) was met by the legal bravo's answer: "That's only an electioneering sheet; we don't acknowledge it." Such are the good manners, such the reverence for the "higher powers," and such also the amount of legal knowledge respecting the Public Schools Act, that qualify the Trustees for directing and controlling the education of two-thirds of the youth of Kingston! We take the liberty to inform the Trustees that the Regulation (No. 7.) of the Honorable the Minister of Education's Circular concerning the right of clergymen of every denomination to ascertain the names of the children of their respective congregations attending the Public Schools, and to assemble them after the regular hours of school and form them into a class for religious instruction, has been a standing order since the year 1859, adopted and from time to time re-published and persistently enforced by Dr. Ryerson and the Council of Public Instruction. It may be seen embodied and more precisely defined in the General Regulations of the Council issued in 1874, as follows:

WEEKLY RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION BY THE CLERGY OF EACH PERSUASION.

No. 4. "In order to correct misapprehension, and define more clearly the rights and duties of Trustees and other parties in regard to religious instruction in connection with the Public Schools, it is decided by the Council of Public Instruction that the clergy of any persuasion, or their authorized representatives, shall have the right to give religious instruction to the pupils of their own church, in each school-house, at least once a week, after the hour of four o'clock in the afternoon. . . . It shall be lawful for the Trustees and clergymen of any denomination to agree upon any hour of the day at which a clergyman, or his authorized representative, may give religious instruction to the pupils of his own church, provided it be not during the regular hours of the school."