

(Hamilton) Master complains of the great discomfort of his School-room. In 1833 we find the Niagara Trustees imploring help; so again in 1836. [135] Frequent representations were made by the Master of the Newcastle District (Cobourg) School [136] regarding the neglect of that Grammar School. In the winter of 1835 [137] the newly-appointed Brockville (Johnston District) Master thus sadly describes with chattering teeth and desponding heart, his School and its furnishings: room, "cold and uncomfortable;" furniture, "two or three old benches and tables of no use."

CAUSE OF THIS CONDITION OF AFFAIRS NOT YET REMOVED.

The cause of this distressed condition of the Grammar Schools is very intelligible; and, as it concerns the Grammar Schools of our own day as much as those of thirty or forty years ago, it deserves careful attention. The provision made by the Legislature in 1807 [188] for this class of Schools was, as shewn above, of an *interim* character. The allowance of £100 cy. per annum was assigned as the nucleus of a modest stipend for the master. The several Districts, in order to avail themselves of this Parliamentary bounty, erected each a school house by private subscription. But the average lifetime of a school-house,—when its lease of life has not been periodically renewed by extensive repairs,—does not exceed the average professional lifetime of a School Master. It will, then, be no matter for surprise that buildings erected in 1807 had, in 1830, fallen into utter ruin. No fund had then, or for that matter, HAS YET been provided for the building, or the repair, or the equipment of Grammar Schools. The unreliable mode of voluntary subscription had utterly failed to raise the fund necessary for extensive repairs, and just at the moment when the actual sale of the Grammar School Reserves was contemplated as the solution of the difficulty, it was discovered that the most valuable portion of that endowment was already fraudulently alienated. Every effort made by the Assembly to re-imburse the Grammar Schools, or otherwise provide for the higher education of the masses was rendered nugatory by a military despot, who would tolerate no rival of U. C. College; or the effort was defeated by the bigotry of the Legislative Council who saw, even in Common Schools, the fancied enemies of King's College. [139] The injury thus done to the Grammar Schools has never yet been repaired. The whole amount now accruing from the interest of the Grammar School Fund supplemented in each locality by a Municipal grant affords but a very scanty pittance and is therefore very properly, by Act of Parliament [140] restricted to the payment of Masters' Salaries. This scanty provision may, as we shall afterwards see, at once, be most materially increased by a very simple and unobjectionable expedient—the *immediate restoration to*

135 Journal Assembly 1833-4, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1833. Petition of Niagara Trustees. Journal Assembly, 1836, Monday, Feb. 15, Petition of Niagara Trustees.

136 Journal Assembly 1836, Friday, Feb. 5 Journal Assembly 1836-7, November 14, 1836. Ibid, Jan. 12, 1837. Journal Assembly 1837-8, January 19, 1838.

137 Journal Assembly 1835, Appendix Vol 2. Sess. Paper No 45.

138 47 Geo. III., cap. 6.

139 As exhibitions of this feeling, we have the repeated rejection, by the Legislative Council, of Money Bills, intended for the relief of the Grammar and the Common Schools, or intended for the assistance of such institutions as the Grantham Academy.

140 Consolidated Grammar School Act § 8; Grammar School Improvement Act, (1855) § 6.