

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH BOOKS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN UPPER CANADA.

(As laid down by the Council of Public Instruction.)

The Council of Public Instruction deems it proper to state its Principles of proceeding, in performing the important and responsible task of selecting Books for Public School libraries of Upper Canada.

1. The Council regards it as imperative, that no work of a licentious, vicious, or immoral, tendency, and no works hostile to the Christian Religion, should be admitted into the Libraries.

2. Nor is it, in the opinion of the Council, compatible with the objects of the Public School Libraries, to introduce into them Controversial works on Theology, or works of Denominational Controversy; although it would not be desirable to exclude all historical and other works in which such topics are referred to and discussed, and it is desirable to include a selection of suitable works on the Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion.

3. In regard to Books on Ecclesiastical History, the Council agrees in a selection from the most approved works on each side.

4. With these exceptions, and within these limitations, it is the opinion of the Council that as wide a selection as possible should be made of useful and entertaining Books of permanent value, adapted to popular reading in the various departments of human knowledge,—leaving each Municipality to consult its own taste and exercise its own discretion in selecting Books from the General Official Catalogue.

5. The including of any Books in the General Catalogue, is not to be understood as the expression of any opinion by the Council in regard to any sentiments inculcated, or combatted, in such Books; but merely as an acquiescence on the part of the Council in the purchase of such Books by any Municipality, should it think proper to do so.

6. The General Catalogue of Books for Public School Libraries, may be modified and enlarged from year to year, as circumstances may suggest, and as suitable new works of value may appear.

TORONTO, August 2nd, 1853.

EGERTON RYERSON.

CHAPTER VI.

CIRCULARS TO THE MUNICIPALITIES AND TRUSTEES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

1. TO THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.
2. TO THE TOWN-REEVE OF TOWNSHIPS.
3. TO THE TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL SECTIONS.
4. TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, TOWNSHIP AND TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL SECTIONS.
5. TO THE HEADS OF TOWNSHIP MUNICIPALITIES IN FORWARDING THE LIBRARY BOOKS.

1. CIRCULAR TO THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND INCORPORATED VILLAGES IN UPPER CANADA, ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

1. You will herewith receive copies of my [following] Circular to Township Councils and of the Regulations which have been adopted in regard to the establishment and management of Public School Libraries, together with the first Catalogue of the Books, which have been selected for those Libraries.* To that Circular and to those Regulations I refer you for all that I think it necessary to say on the important subjects to which they relate.

* The Catalogue was contained in the *Journal of Education for Upper Canada* for the months of July and August, and part of September (in advance), 1853.