- 2. I desire, therefore, to submit to your favourable consideration whether the highest interests of your Municipality will not be best consulted by the application of the whole, or at least a part of that sum, for procuring Maps, Charts, Globes, etcetera, for your Schools, and Books of useful and entertaining Reading for all classes and ages in your Municipality. If you apply the money to "general purposes," it will amount to comparatively little, and the relief, or advantages, of it will scarcely be perceived, or felt. But, if you apply it to furnish your Schools with Maps, Globes, and Apparatus, and Libraries, you will not only confer a benefit which will be felt in future years, in all of your Schools, by all of your children, and by all classes of the population, without imposing a six pence Rate upon any one, but will double your resources for these most important purposes. The Legislative Grant for School Apparatus and Public Libraries is apportioned to each Municipality according to the amount provided in such Municipality for the same purpose. In applying your Clergy Reserve Money, therefore, to these purposes, you double the amount of it; and confer upon the rising generation and the whole community advantages which will be gratefully felt in all time to come, and develop intellectual resources, which, in their turn, will tell powerfully upon the advancement of the Country in knowledge, wealth and happiness.
- 3. Some Municipalities have anticipated what I now venture to suggest, by resolving to apply their share of the Clergy Reserve Funds to the purposes above mentioned. The first application I received was from a comparatively new and poor Township, whose share of the Fund in question amounted to Two hundred pounds; (£200); the whole of which the Council nobly determined to apply for procuring Maps for the Schools and Public Libraries for the Township, and sent a Deputation to Toronto to select the Books, Maps, etcetera. I had great pleasure in adding another Two hundred pounds, (£200), to their appropriation; and thus, every School in the Township is furnished with Maps and other requisites of instruction, and every family with Books for reading, and that without a farthing's tax upon any inhabitant. It is delightful to think of a Township whose Schools are thus furnished with the best aids to make them attractive and efficient, and whose families are thus provided, (especially during the long winter evenings), with the society of the greatest, best, and most entertaining men. (through their works,) of all Countries and ages. Several Cities, Towns, and other Township Municipalities have adopted a similar course, some of them appropriating larger sums than that which I have mentioned to the purchase of School Requisites and Libraries.
- 4. The voice of the people of Upper Canada has long been lifted up in favour of appropriating the proceeds of the sales of the Clergy Reserves to "Educational Purposes." Now that those proceeds are placed in their own hands, through their Municipal Representatives, it is as consistent as it is patriotic to carry out their often avowed wishes: and I know no way in which it can be done so effectually, as that, by which the amount of it may be, in the first place, doubled, and, in the second place, be so applied as to secure permanent benefit to every pupil and every family in each Municipality in Upper Canada. If the principal of the Fund were invested, and the interest accruing therefrom be annually applied, as I have taken the liberty to suggest, then ample means would be provided for supplying, in all future time, every School and every family in Upper Canada with the means of increasing the interest and usefulness of the one, and the intelligence and enjoyment of the other, to an indefinite extent, and that without even being under the necessity of levying a Rate, or imposing a Tax, for the purpose. Such an investment would be the proudest monument of the intelligence and large-heartedness of the grown-up population, and would confer benefits beyond conception upon the rising and future generations of the Country.
- 5. I have, heretofore, furnished each Municipal Council with a copy of the Catalogue of Books for Public Libraries, and I herewith transmit a copy of the Catalogue of Maps and other School Apparatus provided by this Department, together with the