

out. The pupil might, for anything to the contrary contained in the instructions, commence his studies whenever he had a mind, and prosecute them in whatever order pleased himself. The general Rules for the conduct of Schools have, in most instances, been better than those for the Course of Study. Yet, even here, there is often such vagueness in one instance, and such minuteness and unnecessary particularity in another, that the whole may be considered as a perfect anomaly in a General System of Education. It has very frequently been urged, both by Common School Commissioners and Teachers, that the appointment of the books prescribing the Course of Study and the general rules for the regulation of Common Schools should emanate from the Provincial Superintendent. But all direct interference in these matters has been declined, on the ground that the duties which they thus wished to devolve upon him were legally vested in the Common School Commissioners.

*Fourth.*—To impress upon Teachers the great responsibility of their station in society, and the necessity for the strictest propriety in their walk and conversation, both in and out of School. This resolution was adopted, because the impression on the public mind for many years past respecting Common School Teachers appears to have been that these men were, in general, as low in their prudence and morality as they are in their pecuniary resources. It is due to the Teachers who attended these meetings thus publicly and officially to state that, with three exceptions, they conducted themselves with great propriety, and left an impression that, in these respects, they were far superior to what report had said regarding them. The duties of Teachers, and the responsibility of their stations in society, were set before them, as briefly and forcibly as possible, at the public Meetings, and their feelings on the occasion were, without any public exception, those of esteem and gratitude. The fact cannot be denied that the position occupied by Teachers has, in the great majority of cases, been the most unpropitious. Boarding for a few days at a time with the several families by whom they are employed, and the changing from house to house, their minds have become dissipated, and private study has generally been altogether neglected. But even where this has not been the system, and where the Teachers have boarded themselves, their income generally has been such as to oblige them to live in the lowest taverns, and consequently to associate with the lowest and most dissipated characters in the neighbourhood. By this daily intercourse with bar-room politicians and bar-room divines, they insensibly become assimilated to them in their manners, views and habits, and are thus rendered utterly disqualified for conducting the education of youth. But Teachers had no alternative. They had not the means to enable them to choose either their place or their company. Their income neither enabled them to live in respectable lodgings, nor to associate with respectable society. Neither the Government nor the People have yet provided for Teachers the comfort of a dwelling-house, where they might be at home, and enabled to devote their leisure hours to the advancement of education by the improvement of their own minds. These things are, therefore, evidently not what they ought to be in any Province of the British Empire. Because, whatever is adverse to the comfort and respectability of Teachers stands directly opposed to the education of youth, and consequently to the power of the Civil Government, and the moral respectability of the people.

*Fifth.*—It was intended to have spent one day with the Teachers at every District meeting in Normal School exercises, with the view of leading them to adopt the best methods of communicating instruction to their pupils, and of exercising discipline in their Schools. But during the first part of the annual visitations it was found to be impracticable to engage with advantage in the exercises, as many of the Teachers urged the necessity of being permitted to return home on the evening of the first day of the meeting from the want of funds to pay their expenses if they were detained another day. Under these circumstances, it was found necessary to abandon for a season what appeared so desirable a part of the annual visitations. The importance of this duty was, however, generally alluded to, and a hope held out that it might be undertaken at