

I asked old Father Time himself at last,  
But in a moment he flew swiftly past;  
His chariot was a cloud, the viewless wind  
His noiseless steeds, which leave no trace behind.

I asked the mighty angel, who shall stand  
One foot on sea and one on solid land;  
"Mortal," he cried, "the mystery now is o'er;  
Time was, Time is, but Time shall be no more!"

—*Marsden.*

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\* \* Parties in correspondence with the Educational Department will please quote the number and date of any previous letters to which they may have occasion to refer, as it is extremely difficult for the Department to keep trace of isolated cases, where so many letters are received (nearly 800 per month) on various subjects.

## OFFICIAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PROPOSED BY LOCAL SCHOOL AUTHORITIES.

Since the commencement of the last month, nearly eight hundred letters have been received at the Upper Canada Education Office, at Toronto; and most of these letters involve legal questions. To lessen the increasingly onerous correspondence of the Department, and to consult the convenience of many parties, we have thought it advisable to select and insert in this and the following numbers of the *Journal of Education*, some of the answers which have been given by the Chief Superintendent to letters of local school authorities, involving questions and proceedings under the school law. We will number them for convenient reference by parties concerned:

### NO. 1. SCHOOL FEES MUST BE PAID MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

"By the General Regulations, all school fees are payable in advance, and no child has a right to enter the school until he pays the monthly or quarterly fee required. The Trustees have no authority to levy a fee for a less period than one month; and any child entering school is liable to pay a fee for one month, though he may attend but a few days, or even one day, of that month. The house is provided and warmed, and the teacher is employed and paid for every teaching day of the month, and if a parent keeps his child at home, the school section or teacher should not suffer the loss of his doing so; besides which, the irregular attendance of pupils is a financial loss to the section in regard to the school fund, as each school section shares in that fund according to the average attendance of pupils at the school during each half year."

### NO. 2. EVILS OF A RATE-BILL PER DAY.

"The imposing of a rate-bill per day presents a temptation to parents to keep their children from school, an evil of a former law that the present law was intended to prevent. According to the present law, the Trustees cannot impose a rate-bill for a shorter period than one month. Every child entering the school is, therefore, liable to pay the monthly fee, which the General Regulations make payable in advance, as has always

been done in the Provincial Model School—no child ever being admitted without the payment of the fee. The name of each pupil must be entered in the school register; and the fee must be paid for that pupil. One child cannot be substituted for another, any more than one elector can be substituted for another.

"The irregular attendance of pupils is injurious to the school, and injurious to the progress of the other pupils in the same classes with the pupils who are so irregular in their attendance."

### NO. 3. POWERS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.—APPLICATION OF SCHOOL FEES.

"The annual school meeting has a right to decide whether a rate-bill shall be imposed or not, and what shall be the amount of it for each pupil, not exceeding twenty-five cents per month; but the Trustees have a right to say whether the rate-bill shall be paid monthly, or quarterly, or half-yearly.

"The specific purpose for which a school rate is levied need not be stated, although it is more satisfactory to state in the warrant that it is for the salary of the teacher and support of the schools, or the erection or repairs of a school, without stating the exact amount for each purpose.

"The Trustees are justified in expending the balance of school fees in their hands in repairing the school-house. The whole of the School Fund (consisting of Legislative Grant and Municipal assessment) must be expended in paying the salaries of teachers; but fees and school rates are liable to be expended for any lawful school purposes whatever.

"The Trustees are not authorized to levy upon the parents of children attending the school any rate-bill for wood, in addition to the rate-bill voted at the annual school meeting, whether 12½ cts. or 25 cts. per month. All the expenses of the school, whether for fuel or repairs, apparatus, &c., over and above the amount of the rate-bills and school fund, must be provided by a rate on property, without any vote of a public meeting. See latter part of the 7th clause of the 12th section of the School Act of 1850."

### NO. 4. NEGLECT OR REFUSAL OF A SCHOOL MEETING TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL.

"When the majority at a school meeting refuse to make any provision for the support of the school, the Trustees have authority by the latter part of the 7th clause of the 12th section of the School Act of 1850, to levy and collect on all the property of the school section the balance they require for the support of their school over and above the amount of the apportionment.

"The electors who neglect to attend the annual school meeting of their Section, have no just reason to complain of any decisions of such meeting, any more than electors, who neglect to vote at the election of a Councillor or Member of the Legislature, have just reason to complain of the result of such election. But by the 12th clause of the 12th section of the Act, Trustees, if they think proper, can call a special meeting for any school purpose whatever.

"The Trustees can thus call a special school meeting to reconsider the mode of supporting the school, and of devising such means as the meeting may think proper for that purpose."

### NO. 5. ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT CHILDREN.

"The Trustees cannot levy a rate to pay the fees for attendance of non-resident children, as it is only by private mutual agreement between Trustees and the parents of non-resident children that they are admitted to a school. If collected at all, such fees can only be collected by suit at the Division Court.