

schools were known to have about two thousand female pupils, enacted that the Legislative Grant should be apportioned to the schools according to the average attendance of "pupils." The Council direct that though girls may continue to be pupils in the schools, they shall not be computed in apportioning the grant; while the new legal opinion, called forth under the same impression which operates in the Council, excludes them from the schools altogether.

The system intended by the Legislature, if carried out, will ultimately furnish the means of obtaining a superior education, near their homes, and at a moderate expense, to all the children in the Province whose parents or guardians may wish it. The system favored by the Council will restrict the schools to large towns, in each of which a number of boys will be collected together, many of them at a distance from their families, exposed to all the evils and temptations inseparable from large towns, and deprived of the purifying influence which proceeds from the sisterly companionship of girls in the school. As attendance at the schools will be expensive to all but those who reside in these towns, and as the instruction given in them will be directly designed for preparing pupils for college, it will come to be understood that a Grammar School education is the peculiar privilege of a special caste of the community,—that class of persons who are able and disposed to afford their sons a University education. Instead of being, as the Legislature intended, local colleges open to the easy access of children of all classes, the few Grammar Schools which will be left will become institutions mainly for the benefit of the aspiring richer class, and chiefly of that class in the large towns.

To this we may add that the liberal and practical system of instruction designed by the Legislature is that which is now advocated by the highest authorities, and is every year more favored by the oldest and most esteemed institutions of learning in England, as well as in other countries. The contrary system, everywhere else discountenanced and disregarded as unsuited to the wants of our age, finds its last stronghold and support, we regret to say, in the Council of Public Instruction of Ontario.

It is very much in the power of the Chief Superintendent of Education to determine, for the present time, which of these systems shall prevail in this Province. If the legal opinion, recently promulgated, shall

be deemed an obstacle, there would be no difficulty in obtaining an authoritative enactment on that point from the Legislature at its next session; and we are inclined to believe that the respected Law Officer who gave that opinion would willingly lend his aid toward this object.

In the meantime, our duty as a Board of Trustees appears to us quite clear. We cannot see that we have a right to exclude from the school any class of pupils who were admitted in Grammar Schools when the Act of 1865 was passed; and we shall continue to admit girls as pupils into our school. We shall also continue to claim our due share of the Legislative Grant on account of the attendance of these pupils. If this claim is refused, we can do no more than report the circumstance to the County and Village Councils which appointed us, for such action, either through the tribunals or by application to the Legislature, as they may think proper to take. These Councils have both made liberal grants to the school, on the assurance (which from the previous practice of the department we felt entitled to give them,) that the increasing attendance of pupils in our school would secure to us this year an increase of the Legislative grant; instead of which we experience an unexpected and embarrassing diminution.

Your recent circular informs us that the grant to our school for the current year will be \$224, and that this grant is based on the attendance of boys only. As the attendance of girls in our school has been nearly equal to that of boys, we should have received for them at least \$200 more. The loss of this money will be a serious injury to our school. It will oblige us to use, for making up the salary of the master, funds which we had intended to devote to procuring a library and additional apparatus, both of which are much required, and would be of great service to the pupils. This money is taken from us to be given to other schools, whose only claim to it lies in the fact that they have excluded girls from those advantages of education which we, in accordance with previous usage, have extended to them. We most earnestly protest against this spoliation and injustice; and we now respectfully ask from your Department the full apportionment of the Legislative grant to which "the average attendance of pupils" entitles our school.

We also respectfully request to be informed whether it is your intention to en-