

tions and Municipalities, any more than private individuals, should not pay two dollars to one man for a book when they can get it at a dollar and a half of another man; that they should provide the instruments of instruction and of intellectual improvement for their constituencies in the cheapest and best manner possible, and that Government should enable them to do so. This is the whole theory of the library and school-map and apparatus Depository in connexion with the Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada.

6. In the sixth paragraph of the petition it is said, "That while the Chief Superintendent professes to furnish libraries at a great saving to the public, they are not sold lower than your petitioners continually supply similar wholesale orders." This statement, though without proof, does not admit of so easy a refutation as some others contained in the petition, because none of the petitioners has a fourth of the books recommended and provided for public libraries, others of them have few or none of those books, and not one of them furnishes the public with a printed catalogue of his books and their "wholesale" prices; whereas the Educational Department has given the utmost publicity to the prices as well as titles of the public library books. But I have to offer the following remarks in reply to this statement. The same number of the *Globe* newspaper which publishes this petition, contains book advertisements from two of the signers of the petition and the sole getters up of it, and those advertisements give the titles and *their* prices of several books contained in the Public Library Catalogue. One book advertised by them at \$3.50 per copy, is furnished to the school and Municipal Corporations for a public library at \$2.90 per copy, and another edition of the same work at two dollars per copy. A series of books advertised by them at \$1 per volume, is furnished by the Educational Department for public libraries at 70 cts. per volume; and another series, advertised at \$1.50 per volume, is furnished for public libraries at \$1 per volume. Such booksellers may very well seek to abolish the public library Depository! They may now and then sell an auction-bought or trade-sale book at a very low price; or to attract business, or answer a particular purpose, they may offer certain well-known books at very low prices; but their own printed advertisements (as they publish no catalogues) are the only sure, though, of course, for them, the most favorable rule of judging as to the truth of this statement of their own petition; for it may be fairly presumed that the books, the prices of which they do not publish, are not lower—more probably higher—than those which they do publish. It will not be pretended that books are sold cheaper in the interior towns of Canada than at Toronto, nor that the authors of this petition will reduce the prices of their books *one third* when selling fifty, twenty, or ten pounds' worth for a library, and pack the books, furnish the paper to cover them, and library labels, &c., and deliver them at the railway station free of charge, as does the Educational Department, and that to the poorest and most remote school section which sends five dollars, upon the same terms and in the same manner as to the municipality sending five hundred dollars.

2. My second remark is, a comparison of catalogues will show that the books are supplied by the Educational Department for public libraries in Upper Canada at considerably lower prices than they are sold to the public where they are published, either in Europe or America.

3. As stated on the 41st page of the preceding Report, the prices at which the Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State of Indiana reports his having bought at New York at one time books to the value of upwards of \$150,000 for 690 Township Libraries in that State—each Library consisting of 321 volumes, and of the same books; so that there were purchased 690 copies of each book. The bill of one bookseller amounted to \$115,986.53. Books purchased in such quantities each, and to such an amount at one time, should be procured at very low prices. Yet the prices at which these books are reported to have been pur-