

children at the public schools should be instructed in the Bible and the know ledge of God. If it be lawful for the magistrates of this Province to arrest and punish citizens for disturbing divine worship and the desecration of the Sabbath, to annot be unlawful to teach the young in the common schools the wrongfulness of these acts and the reasons, founded on the Bible, why the law forbids them. It cannot be the part of a law-abiding citizen to prevent his children from being taught by the State in the public schools what the law of the Province requires of them. Ignorance is no excuse for breaking the law, and the Government should supply that common instruction which the law courts require in every citizen brought before them. It seems, therefore, evident that the disuse of the Bible in public schools should not, according to the spirit of our jurisprudence, be conceded.

Commissioners.—One of our Commissioners has resigned for want of remuneration. I would recommend that the number be reduced and that each of them be paid \$5.00 per term out of the County fund for actual attendance.

Candidates for License.—There were over eighty candidates examined in July last. A large number was unsuccessful. The pressure for permissive license in consequence was almost irresistible; only three or four were allowed.

Married Female Teachers.—Having already written you about the cases which came under my notice, I shall only say that this may be thought an easy matter—that married women are just as suitable as married men. It should, however, be borne in mind that they have husbands who should support them, and their engagement as teachers deprive single females of the situations for which many of them now have qualified themselves at the Normal School. Married ladies are necessarily unable to give steady attendance to school duties, the higher law of maternity compelling them often to be at home. The law of nature seems to be that ladies should, on entering the married state, devote themselves to domestic and social cares, and not to public duties. The family is the school which the married lady should teach. In the country schools, at any rate, Trustees should prefer the single female, when she is equally qualified for the situation.

Concluding Remark.—The general progress of the schools in the County for the year of school work now closed, taken as a whole, was fair, and as soon as the effects of the great epidemic pass away our work will go on with renewed energy. A few schools will not open this winter. Time is a great healer, however, and our schools will soon resume their wonted energy.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. S. DARRAGH.

REV. A. S. HUNT, M. A.,
Superintendent of Education.

DISTRICT OF CLARE.

A. P. LANDRY, M. D., Inspector.

SIR,—

The time has again come round when I have the honor to lay before you my annual report upon the state of public education in the District of Clare for the school year closed on the 31st October, 1876.

While I cannot have the pleasure of reporting any very sensible increase in the prosperity of the schools of the District, I have not, however, to lament any decrease therein, as shown by the statistical tables of this year compared