

sphere of government duty and private enterprise. It is as much the duty of government to adopt the most economical and effective means to furnish the public schools with all the needful appliances and instruments of usefulness, as to provide these for any one of its own departments. The extent and manner in which it does so, must depend on circumstances, and it is a matter for the exercise of its own discretion, irrespective of any pretensions of private against public interests. The private bookseller has a right to sell his books as he pleases; and each school section and municipality, and each public body of every description, as well as each private individual, and not less the government, has a right to purchase books where and of whom they please. Each municipality, as well as the Legislative Assembly itself, may have its own library procured and imported by a public agent, and not by a private trader, to whom large additional prices must be paid for his risks and profits.

"Besides, nearly all the maps and other articles of school apparatus, and most of the books for the libraries, were unknown in the country, and would have been unknown, had they not been introduced by the agency of a public department. I believe that private booksellers have largely profited by what I have done in this respect; * that they have found demand for many books which no doubt have first been made known in the official catalogue, and through the medium of the public school libraries. They have the entire and exclusive possession of the field of private trade; and with this they should be satisfied, without claiming to be the sole and uncontrolled medium of supplying the public schools and municipalities with books and school apparatus.

THE LATE EARL OF ELGIN'S OPINION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS FEATURE OF OUR WORK.

"The magnitude and importance of this noblest feature of our public school system was deeply felt by Lord Elgin, who, in one of his valedictory addresses, delivered on leaving the Province, referred to the *"township and county libraries as the crown and glory of the institutions of the Province!"* This is certainly the true light in which to view such great instruments in the hand of Providence, for the amelioration of society and the enlightenment of the public mind. *The youth attending our schools are taught to read, and read they will, either for good or evil.* It therefore becomes an important and momentous question in all systems of public instruction, how shall this want be supplied—this craving for intellectual food be satisfied. The question has ever been an anxious one with me. Each step has been carefully pondered, and each conclusion has been cautiously arrived at. It is therefore a matter of satisfaction to know that this care and anxiety has not been in vain, but that there have been put into circulation in Upper Canada [nearly 700,000] volumes of choice and excellent works, [up to the end of 1869,] relating to almost every department of literature and science."

APPRECIATION OF THE DEPOSITORY BY THE SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC.

As evidence how entirely the sympathies of the country are with the Department in this matter, it is proper to remark that no complaint is heard, except from about half a dozen interested parties. The increase in the operations of the Depository since 1851 have been remarkable, not only for the amount of money voluntarily sent in for books, maps, and apparatus, but also in regard to the number of these requisites sent out. These facts, the following table will abundantly show:—

OPERATIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL DEPOSITORY FROM 1851 TO 1869.

YEAR OF OPERATION.	Money sent in to the Depository by Trustees and others.	Value of articles sent to the schools, including the 100 per cent. allowed on Trustees' remittances only.	Number of volumes of Library and Prize Books sent out.
1853.....	\$4,233	\$4,233	22,800
1855.....	11,690	22,251	27,320
1860.....	16,476	27,537	32,370
1865.....	15,130	26,442	48,483
1869.....	20,243	34,808	61,085

The grand total of moneys received by the Department, from Trustees and others for school requisites up to the end of 1869, was \$291,612; the value of the articles sent out was \$489,915 (or nearly \$500,000 worth); and the total number of books despatched during the same time was 691,561, (or nearly 700,000 volumes.)

OPINIONS OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND OTHERS AS TO THE REQUISITES SENT OUT.

As to the satisfaction felt by the School Trustees and others, to whom these requisites were sent, we make the following extracts from letters received at the Department, viz. :—

Lindsay.—"Please accept my best thanks for the choice selection you have made me for our library. Also, for the beautiful township prize. Everyone is delighted with it. We have enquired at some book stores as to the price of our library books, and find your terms such as you state them to be. The best thing Doctor Ryerson can do is to publish his prices with those of the booksellers. It will be the best possible advertisement. What I have seen stated somewhere is perfectly true as to the advantage to booksellers derived from your establishment. The more libraries established through the country, the greater the taste for reading, and the larger the trade to gratify that taste. *'L'appetit vient en mangeant,'* is as true of reading as of eating."

Hullett.—"The books you sent us last year gave satisfaction."

Euphemia.—"Your selection of prize books, last December, was very suitable."

Emily.—"The prizes sent gave the greatest satisfaction, and we hope to send for similar favours once or twice a year."

Raleigh.—"We got a No. 1 package of prize books last year, which was very satisfactory."

Usborne Township.—"The books (\$40 worth) which we received last year from the Department for a Township competitive examination gave entire satisfaction, and the Council begs you will make the selection for this year also of \$80 worth."

Blundford.—"You made a selection for us last year, and the selection suited us very well. Will you have the kindness to make one again."

Pakenham Township.—"Permit me to thank you for your courtesy in sending the prizes at the time you did for the Township competitive examination. The 61 volumes were excellent books."

Kincardine.—"Your selection last year suited admirably well."

Dawn.—"The prize books for this school section were duly received, and gave excellent satisfaction."

Dorchester South.—"We ordered prize books last year, leaving you to make the selection, and as you pleased us so well, we leave it with you this time also, believing you will send us a good selection."

Minto.—"The books you sent last year pleased very well. You are better qualified to make the selection than we are, and by doing so you will much oblige."

* This they acknowledge in the memorial to the Legislature, already quoted in this article, and it is proved by the extracts given from the *Globe* "Reviews" of the *"Book Trade,"* on page 66.