

pecting such children as shall be deemed most conducive to their welfare, and the good order of such city or town ; and there shall be annexed to such by-laws suitable penalties not exceeding ————— for any one breach ; provided that such by-laws shall be approved by the superior court of the county."

Other and more minute provisions follow, which it is unnecessary to quote. May it not be hoped that, as early as practicable, after the consummation of that Confederation of the Provinces of British North America to which we are generally looking forward with such eager expectation, the Legislature of Upper Canada will address itself to this momentous subject, and will provide the necessary buttress to that imposing structure of public education already erected in this country, without which it may be in danger of crumbling into ruins.

No theory, however, on the duty of a Legislature in connection with this matter can affect the great responsibility of parents or guardians for the neglect of children. Many parents, while not altogether devoid of instinctive natural affection, seem to regard their children merely as a species of property with which they can do as they will, provided they do not violate that public law which will protect children, as it will other domestic animals, from sheer barbarity. Public opinion too, and their own interests constrain them to do something towards the feeding and clothing of their offspring, but, themselves, in some instances, without the rudiments of ordinary education, they have no sense of its necessity in order to the well-being of their children, and they embrace the earliest opportunity to

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