

PREFATORY NOTE.

It has been considered advisable to collect and arrange for easy reference all the provisions of the law, and the general regulations and instructions for the government of Common Schools in the rural School Sections of Upper Canada, for the guidance of Trustees, Local Superintendents and all others officially connected with our Common Schools. This has been done in the present manual; which, by means of notes and references, will be found to contain a complete digest of the existing laws and regulations affecting the public schools. Sections of other Statutes affecting Common Schools have been, for greater convenience, quoted at length and arranged in the body of the text.

The want of such a manual has been especially felt in those parts of the country where public interest has been more generally felt in the Common Schools, and where devotion to the cause of public education characterize the efforts of the trustees. Indeed, the manner in which the whole tone and character of the public schools have been raised within the last few years has been highly gratifying. And it is to be hoped that their future prosperity will afford the strongest evidence to the Legislature, that the trustees are anxious to avail themselves, to the fullest extent, of the ample provisions of the law, to adapt our schools to the highest wants of the community, and to place them in a state of efficiency not yet surpassed by any schools in the world. This can easily be done if a true spirit of educational zeal animates us, and if a thorough appreciation of the great Christian and national objects contemplated in the establishment of a public system of education for all classes, guides us in our efforts.

The Legislature has generously provided means to sustain the schools, and the public as nobly second its efforts.* It has also provided means for the supply of all our public schools with well trained teachers, and with the most approved library books, maps, charts, diagrams and apparatus. The powers, duties and responsibilities of trustees are clearly defined, as well as those of the local superintendents. No want need therefore be felt on any of these points.

* Upwards of \$800,000 was expended in 1854 to sustain the public schools of Upper Canada.