

2. The parties thus authorized to act as Visitors, have it in their power to exert an immense influence in elevating the character and promoting the efficiency of the schools, by identifying themselves with them, by visiting them, encouraging the pupils, aiding and counselling Teachers, and impressing upon parents their interests and duties in the education of their offspring. In visiting schools, however, Visitors should, in no instance, speak disparagingly of the instructions or management of the Teacher in the presence of the pupils; but if they think it necessary to give any advice to the Teacher, they should do it privately. They are also desired to communicate to the local or Chief Superintendent any thing which they shall think important to the interests of any school visited by them. The law recommends Visitors, "especially to attend the Quarterly Examinations of the Schools." It is hoped that all Visitors will feel it both a duty and a privilege to aid, on such occasions, by their presence and influence. While it is competent to a Visitor to engage in any exercises which shall not be objected to by the authorities of the school, it is expected that no Visitor will introduce, on any such occasion, any thing calculated to wound or give offence to the feelings of any class of his fellow Christians.

3. The local Superintendents are School Visitors, by virtue of their office, and their comprehensive duties, as such, are stated with sufficient minuteness in the 3rd clause of the 31st section of the School Act. While each local Superintendent makes the careful inquiries and examinations required by law, and gives privately to the Teacher and Trustees such advice as he may deem expedient, and such counsel and encouragement to the Pupils, as circumstances may suggest, he will exhibit a courteous and conciliatory conduct towards all persons with whom he is to communicate, and pursue such a line of conduct as will tend to uphold the just influence and authority, both of Trustees and Teachers.

4. Too strong a recommendation cannot be given to the establishment of Circulating Libraries in the various Townships, and School Sections. A Township Association, with an auxiliary in each School Section, might, by means of a comparatively small sum, supply popular and useful reading for the young people of a whole Township. It is submitted to the serious attention of all School Visitors, as well as Trustees, and other friends of the diffusion of useful knowledge.

SECTION 5. Constitution and Government of Schools in respect to Religious and Moral Instruction.

As Christianity is the basis of our whole system of Elementary Education, that principle should pervade it throughout. Where it cannot be carried out in mixed Schools to the satisfaction of both Roman Catholics and Protestants, the law provides for the establishment of separate Schools. And the Common School Act, fourteenth section, securing individual rights as well as recognizing Christianity, provides, "That in any Model or Common School established under this Act, no child shall be required to read or study in or from any religious book, or to join in any exercise of devotion or religion, which shall be objected to by his or her parents or guardians: Provided always, that within this limitation, pupils shall be allowed to receive such religious instruction as their parents or guardians shall desire, according to the general regulations which shall be provided according to law."

In the section of the Act thus quoted, the principle of religious instruction in the schools is recognized, the restriction within which it is to be given is stated, and the exclusive right of each parent and guardian on the subject is secured, without any interposition from Trustees, Superintendents, or the Government itself.

The Common School being a *day*, and not a *boarding* school, rules arising from domestic relations and duties are not required; and as the pupils are under the care of their parents and guardians on Sabbaths, no regulations are called for in respect to their attendance at public worship.

In regard to the nature and extent of the daily religious exercises of the School, and the special religious instruction given to pupils, the COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR UPPER CANADA makes the following Regulations and Recommendations:—

1. The public religious exercises of each school shall be a matter of mutual voluntary arrangement between the Trustees and Teacher; and it shall be a matter of mutual voluntary arrangement between the Teacher and the parent or guardian of each pupil, as to whether he shall hear such pupil recite from the Scriptures, or Catechism, or other summary of religious doctrine and duty of the persuasion of such parent or guardian. Such recitations, however, are not to interfere with the regular exercises of the school.

2. But the principles of religion and morality should be inculcated upon all the pupils of the school. What the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland state as existing in schools under their charge, should characterize the instruction given in each school in Upper Canada. The Commissioners state that "in the National Schools the importance of religion is constantly impressed upon the minds of children, through the works calculated to promote good principles and fill the heart with love for religion, but which are so compiled as not to clash with the doctrines of any particular class of Christians." In each school the Teacher should exert his best endeavours, both by example and precept, to impress upon the minds of all children and youth committed to his care and instruction, the principles of piety, justice, and a sacred regard to truth, love to their country, humanity and universal benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, chastity, moderation and temperance, and those other virtues which are the ornament of society and on which a free constitution of government is founded; and it is the duty of each Teacher to endeavour to lead his pupils, as their ages and capacities will admit, into a clear understanding of the tendency of the above mentioned virtues, in order to preserve and perfect

the blessings of law and liberty, as well as to promote their future happiness, and also to point out to them the evil tendency of the opposite vices.

By Order of the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada.

J. GEORGE HODGINS,
Recording Clerk.
C. P. I.
EDUCATION OFFICE, TORONTO.
Adopted the 5th day of August, 1850.

NOTICE.

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION FOR UPPER CANADA.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL has been pleased to sanction the JOURNAL OF EDUCATION as the medium of official notices and communications from the Education Office, Toronto, to all Municipal Councils, Local Superintendents, Trustees, and other persons concerned in the administration of the Common School Law. The next number (which will appear in the course of a week) will contain the official correspondence on this subject; as also the apportionment of the Legislative School Grant, for the present year, to all the Counties, Cities, Townships and Towns in Upper Canada—Official Circulars from the Chief Superintendent of Schools to Wardens of Counties, and Mayors of Cities and Towns, to County Clerks, to Local Superintendents, to School Trustees, and to School Teachers, on the objects and administration of the new School Act.

It is therefore suggested to those County, City, Township, and Town Municipal Councils that have not yet ordered copies of the *Journal of Education*, for the use of their members, whether it would not be convenient, and contribute to the educational objects which they are anxious to promote, to do so. The same suggestion is made to those Local Superintendents who have not yet availed themselves of this medium of information in the performance of their duties.

The 15th clause of the 12th Section of the new Act makes it the duty of each Corporation of Trustees to procure annually, for the benefit of the School Section, some periodical devoted to education. As a convenience and inducement to Trustees and Teachers subscribing for the *Journal of Education*, we propose that each Teacher subscribing for it shall have the privilege of advertising in its columns for a School, and each Trustee Corporation subscribing for it shall have the like privilege of advertising for a Teacher. In every such notice, the salary offered to the Teacher, should be stated. This will afford peculiar facilities for Trustees to procure good Teachers, and for Teachers to procure good Schools. No such notice will be inserted from non-subscribers for less than *two shillings and six pence* for each notice.

We would again remind all parties concerned, that the *Journal of Education* is edited gratuitously; that every six pence received for it from any source whatever, is placed to the credit of what is termed the "*Journal of Education Fund*;" that if the sums received are not sufficient to defray the mechanical expenses of publication, (as has hitherto been the case) the Chief Superintendent of Schools pays the balance out of his own pocket; and that whenever the sums received shall be more than sufficient to pay the ordinary mechanical expenses of publication, the overplus will be expended in procuring various illustrative engravings and otherwise adding to the value and usefulness of the *Journal*.

Under all these circumstances, we venture to hope for a large increase in the circulation of the *Journal of Education*—using every means in our power to make it a safe expositor of the law, the Trustee's manual, the Teacher's friend, a select miscellany, and general educational intelligencer.

N. B. A copy of this and the ensuing number of the *Journal of Education* will be sent to each of the Municipal Councils in Upper Canada, and each local Superintendent whose address is known at this office; also a sufficient number to the Clerk of each County to supply (through the local Superintendents or otherwise) a copy, to each of the Trustee Corporations in the several townships of their respective Counties.

Toronto: Printed and Published by THOMAS H. BENTLEY, at 5s per annum, and may be obtained from ANSON GREEN, HUGH SCOTT, and A. H. ARMOUR & Co., Toronto; R. D. WADSWORTH, General Agent for Canada; J. McCoy, Montreal; and D. M. DEWEY, Arcade Hall, Rochester, N. Y.

Back Numbers supplied to all new subscribers.

All communications to be addressed to Mr. HODGINS, Education Office, Toronto.