

III. QUALIFIED COMMON SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SALARIES.

1. *Whole Number of Teachers Employed.*—The total number of qualified Common School Teachers employed in the Schools, in 1847, was 2,812; the number of Teachers employed in the Schools without Certificates of Qualification, during some part of the year, was 216; that the total number of Teachers employed in 2,727 Schools reported, was 3,028,—showing that there were 304 more Teachers employed than there were Schools, and, therefore, that there must have been changes of Teachers in many of the Schools in the course of the year—one of the most serious impediments to the progress of the Schools. In several of the Municipal Districts, this evil is strongly complained of. It appears, however, upon the whole, that this evil exists to a much greater extent in the neighbouring State of New York, than in this Country. In the State Superintendent's Report for 1847, I find that the number of Teachers employed in the course of the year is 18,785; Schools reported, 10,589—that is about eighty per cent. more Teachers than Schools. Schools in which more than one Teacher is employed at the same time are not taken into account.

2. *Comparative number of Male and Female Teachers employed.*—It also appears from the School Statistics that, of 3,028 Common School Teachers employed, in 1847, 2,356 were Males, and 663 were Females. The distinction between Male and Female Teachers in our Schools was introduced for the first time in the local Reports for 1847. I am not, therefore, able to say whether the number of Female Teachers is increasing or not; I am inclined to believe it is. In the State of New York, it is singular to remark, that the number of Female Teachers employed in that State, in 1847, was 15,821, while the number of Male Teachers was only 2,965. It appears from our Statistics that, in the Huron, Bathurst, Simcoe, and Wellington Districts there is the smallest, and, in the Niagara, Midland, Newcastle, Brock and Johnstown Districts, there is the greatest number of Female Teachers employed. The Statistics will show the comparative number of Male and Female Teachers employed in every Township of each District in Upper Canada.

3. *Certificates of Qualification.*—The statistics also show that of the 2,812 legally qualified Teachers employed, in 1847, 1,687 of them received Certificates of Qualification during that year,—1,284 Certificates having been given by District Superintendents, and 403 by School Visitors. It will be seen that, in several Districts, no Certificates are reported to have been given by School Visitors. Indeed, I have been informed, that the Municipal Councils have formally recommended the Visitors not to give Certificates in their Districts, and to leave it entirely to the District School Superintendents; that an uniform and proper standard of qualification might be maintained in respect to Teachers throughout each District.

In the Forms and Regulations, prepared for the "Better Organization and Government of Common Schools in Upper Canada," I have specified the lowest general standard of qualifications for Teachers, and I have reason to believe that a much lower standard than that has been acted upon, by School Visitors, in many instances. The authorizing of Certificates by School Visitors was recommended, not as a permanent measure, but as a merely temporary Regulation, to effect a transition from the old Township Superintendent system of granting such Certificates, to one more uniform and efficient. It was reasonably thought that a Certificate of Qualification, given by two School Visitors, consisting of Clergy, Magistrates, and District Councillors, for only one School, and for only one year, would be, at least, as good, (if not better,) security against the employment of unsuitable Teachers, as the issuing of Certificates for a whole Township, by a Township Superintendent of Schools; and that opinion has been justified by the result;—for no one will doubt but that there are fewer unqualified Teachers employed now, than there were before the passing of the present School Act of 1846; besides, when it is considered, that a District Superintendent is not merely an Examiner, but