

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR LOWER CANADA, FOR THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR 1846-7. Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly, 1848, pp. 178.

This elaborate Report, for a duplicate copy of which (English and French) we beg to thank the Author, Dr. Meilleur, was laid before the Legislative Assembly in March last. It contains a discussion of the various proposed systems of Educational Law for Lower Canada, exhibits the character of the opposition to the existing School Law, and presents a tabular view of the state of the Common Schools for the last six months of 1846, and the first six months of 1847. The contents of this document are as follows :—Letter to Provincial Secretary, page 3 ; Introduction to the Report, page 5 ; Report, page 6 : Principles of the present School Law, page 8 ; General Observations, page 18 ; Summary of the motives for retaining the Law, page 41 ; Defects of the Law, page 42 ; Different systems of Education proposed, page 43 ; Examination of the Systems proposed, page 45 ; Amendments proposed to be made to the Law, page 74 ; Remarks on the proposed Amendments, page 84 ; Other subjects of legislation touching Public Instruction, page 91 ; Statistical Tables and Remarks upon them, page 98 ; Circular No. 9, page 138 ; Forms, page 167 ; Circular No. 10, page 172 ; Circular No. 11, page 174.

It will thus be seen that the topics of this document are various, and that only a small part of it is devoted to the statement and exposition of the last year's School operations. From the Statistical Tables it appears that there were in operation during the Scholastic School year 1846-7, 1,613 Schools ; that there were 63,281 Children in the Schools ; that the sum of £23,247 4s. 8d. had been expended out of the Legislative Grant for the Salaries of School Teachers ; and that £6,444 12s. 0d. had been appropriated to the building and repairs of School-houses. It appears that since 1842, 494 School-houses have been built or repaired, for which £17,983 14s. 3½d. have been expended out of the Legislative School Grant. No part of the School Grant for Upper Canada is allowed to be expended for the erection or repair of School-houses, or for the Salaries of the Provincial or District Superintendents ; but it is exclusively expended in payment of the Salaries of School Teachers.

We are not informed by these Tables, or in any part of this Report, of the whole number of Children of School age in the several Counties, or in Lower Canada at large ; nor of the amounts raised by local *Assessments* and *Rate-bills* ; nor of the length of time the Schools have been kept open by qualified Teachers ; nor of the classification of the pupils, and the subjects of study in which they are severally engaged. In the absence of these details, or of any