

real state of the schools for those appointed to administer for the public benefit the funds allocated by the state for the education of the people.

I am aware that the mode of inspection now described in general terms would occupy considerable time ; in fact, a well-organized school of fifty children cannot be satisfactorily examined under two hours and a half ; and one of a similar size, but undisciplined and under a Teacher unaccustomed to improved methods of teaching, would require a much longer space, from the necessity of affording to such a Teacher the requisite information and instruction. But I have spoken throughout with reference to inspection in general, without limitation to any particular country, and under the conviction that the important and onerous duties of school inspection in a large district are sufficient to occupy the time and engross the attention as thoroughly as can possibly be the case in any other profession.

I have purposely avoided touching on the official details connected with inspection, such as the nature of Superintendents' Reports, the mode of making them most effectively useful, &c., as these are extraneous matters which must depend altogether on the arrangement of the system. I have also omitted to advert to the duties of Superintendents with reference to religious instruction, notwithstanding its extreme importance, as such duties must, from the nature of the subject, be regulated by different considerations.

I have endeavoured to render the foregoing observations as practical as possible ; they are the result of many years' experience in the duties of actual inspection, in the management of a department having charge of all the details connected with the subject, and finally in the capacity of Chief Inspector, in which it was part of my duty to report and direct the mode in which the local Superintendents discharged their duty.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

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LIBRARIES—STUDY—MEANS AND AIDS TO SELF-EDUCATION.

To the important truths in the following Essay, we earnestly invite the attention of our readers. The writer, enthusiastically beloved in his native land, was a man of generous impulses and of ardent views. A marked exception to that chilling, general fact, that "a prophet is not without honour save in his own country ;" he was one of the leading, guiding spirits of his countrymen. His career was short, but brilliant ; and never was a tribute of affection and esteem so touchingly paid to the memory of a noble and virtuous man as that which marked the last sad obsequies of this gifted writer—THOS. OSBORNE DAVIS. Peers, distinguished commoners, and the cloistered scholars of the University of his native city, gathered around his mournful bier, and followed the remains of their gentle brother to his final resting place, *Mount Jerome*, Dublin.