

bers demanded that what was given to one District, should be given to all, whether necessary or not. This appeared unreasonable to the promoters of the District School Bill, who were desirous of confining themselves to the four Schools, recommended in the report of the Committee of the Members of the Executive Council, the Judges and Crown Officers already noticed, viz : Cornwall, Kingston, Niagara and Sandwich, to which York, now grown into importance, was added. The other Districts were to be indulged with the same privilege, whenever the Magistrates in Quarter Sessions declared, that a sufficient number of Scholars might be obtained to make the School beneficial ; but to this the majority would not assent, and accordingly the bill included all the Districts without distinction. Should well founded complaints still exist, the fault must be in those appointed to put the law in force. The Trustees have full power to dismiss the Teacher, if negligent and careless of his duty ; and if a School of this advanced description be as yet unnecessary, they may postpone the appointment of another Teacher, till the great increase of population render it useful. Though the Legislature acted wisely in establishing District Schools, as being most beneficial to the public, yet that body never lost sight of the propriety of extending the benefits of instruction to the lower orders throughout the Province. Finding the Revenue greatly increased in 1816, a law was passed, (containing many excellent provisions) for establishing and supporting common Schools, in every Village or Township in the Province.

This bill was very much hurt by the insertion of a clause, that there should be a School in every Town, Village or Place, where twenty Scholars could be collected. These loose words admit of a latitude of interpretation which could not have been intended, and multiply Schools to an extent which it would require three times the Provincial Revenue to support. If we suppose the Province to contain 120,000 souls, and one-sixth of these, children going to School, or 20,000 : this number at the rate of £25 per annum or 100 dollars, for every School of 20 Scholars, would amount to £25,000 per year. This evil may be cured by giving one School to each Township, and no more, provided there be at least forty inhabitants freemen. Are the Townships large, then let the Schools itinerate.—This arrangement will save half the present appropriation, and render