

In respect to the General Regulations and Instructions which are contained in the 6th Chapter of the Forms, &c., you will observe that the Vacations and Holidays are the same as heretofore, and that the other directions and suggestions are either enjoined by the Common School Act, or have been adopted from the National Board of Education in Ireland, whose admirable system of instruction may be considered as the basis of our own—it having been sanctioned by the Gouvernement, and approved of by leading men of all sects and parties. It may be observed, that our system of Public Elementary Instruction is mostly derived from two sources: As a system of Education—that is, its law and government—it is chiefly borrowed from the lately amended School Law of the State of New York; as a system of instruction—that is, its school-teaching, books, discipline &c.—it is adopted from the National Board of Education in Ireland. It may, however, be remarked, that the best methods of instruction adopted in Great Britain, in Ireland, and in the United States, are derived almost entirely from Germany. I am far from desiring to introduce anything new in our Canadian System of Education, or to recommend anything which has not been fully tested and approved in other countries. In the First Part of my “*Report on a System of Public Elementary Instruction for Upper Canada*,” I have collected the results of the experience and opinions of the most distinguished Educationists in Europe and America, and in the Second Part of that Report, I have explained the manner in which I think those results and opinions should be applied to Upper Canada, in every department of our system, from the duties of the Executive Government down to the voluntary efforts of private individuals; and to that exposition on general questions I have nothing to add in this letter.

There are, however, several provisions of the law, on the manner of executing which, it may be proper for me to make a few remarks. The first relates to the Books to be used in Schools. The law prohibits the use of Foreign School Books in the English Branches, unless sanctioned by the Board of Education; it also authorizes the Board to recommend Books to be used in Common Schools, and directs that the Trustees select their School Books from a List prepared by the Provincial Board, and withholds the Legislative Grant from any School in which Books are used which have been publicly disapproved of by the Board.

The Board has not deemed it expedient, as yet, to signify its public disapproval of any School Book published in the British dominions; but it has recommended the excellent series of School