

“Our system of public instruction has acquired such gigantic dimensions, and the net-work of its operations so pervades every municipality of the land, and is so interwoven with our municipal and judicial systems of government, that I think its administration should now be vested in a responsible minister of the Crown, with a seat in parliament, and that I should not stand in the way of the application to our varied educational interests of that ministerial responsibility which is sound in principle and wise in policy. During the past year I have presented a report on the school systems of other countries with a view of improving our own; and the Legislative Assembly has appointed a Select Committee for the same purpose. I have, therefore, thought this was the proper time to suggest the modification and extension of the Department of Public Instruction.

“I beg to append a summary printed statement of the creation and progress of the system during my administration of it, and also a statistical summary of my last year's report.

“In regard to myself, as to both the past and the future, I beg to make the following statement.

“While in addition to the duties imposed upon me by law as Chief Superintendent of Education, I have voluntarily established a system of providing the municipal and school authorities with libraries, text books, and every description of school furniture and school apparatus—devising and developing their domestic manufacture, and have thus saved the country very many thousands of dollars in the prices as well as quality of the books, maps, &c., &c., I can truly say that I have not derived one farthing's advantage from any of these arrangements beyond the consciousness of conferring material, intellectual, and social benefits upon the country. When I accepted office, I made no stipulation as to salary, which was subsequently fixed by statute not to exceed that of the Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada, and to bear the same proportion to his salary as the share of Upper Canada to the population division of the legislative school grant bore to the share of Lower Canada. At that time the population of Upper Canada was reported in the census as less than that of Lower Canada. My salary has, therefore, been regulated by act of parliament, and not by the favor of any government. Beyond the economical current expenses of my family, and the purchase of my dwelling, I had, until within four years, distributed my salary in aid of benevolent and public objects. During the last four years I had accumulated and invested two thousand dollars; but recently the claims of two objects seemed to be so strong (the one the purchase of McGill square, for benevolent purposes, the other, the endowment of Victoria College,) that I divided the two thousand dollars between them. With the exception, therefore, of the house I occupy, I have no more material wealth than I had twenty-five years ago.

“But in regard to the future I stipulate or solicit nothing. In view of my labours during the last twenty-four years and upwards, my age of