

their alleged design and tendency. We have therefore anxiously desired an opportunity for effectually disabusing the public mind on a matter of so great importance, and to demonstrate, beyond reasonable doubt, the objects contemplated in procuring the present School Acts. This we are now enabled to do by the condescension and kindness of the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, and the interest which His Excellency feels in imparting to the public mind correct views as to the principles and objects of our School system, and thus placing it upon a broad and permanent foundation. At the moment of our arranging the matter for the present number of this Journal, the following letter from the Provincial Secretary was received :—

“ SECRETARY’S OFFICE, Montreal, 7th Feb’y, 1848.

“ SIR,—I have the honour, by command of the Governor-General, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, transmitting for His Excellency’s perusal, copies of two circulars recently addressed by you, one to the Wardens of Districts, and the other to the Heads of the Corporations of Cities and Towns in Upper Canada, with a view of bringing the Common School system of Upper Canada into more general and efficient operation, and requesting His Excellency’s permission to publish in your forthcoming ‘*Journal of Education*,’ the whole of the explanatory Reports which accompanied the original Drafts of the Common School Acts, and of which extracts are given in the circulars transmitted, as their publication would, you are of opinion, aid very much in correcting erroneous impressions as to the design and reasons of the School Acts generally.

“ In reply, I am directed to state that His Excellency concurs with you in thinking that the publication of the Reports in question may be attended with the advantages pointed out by you, and that His Excellency feels much satisfaction in assenting to your request.

“ I have the honor to be, SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

D. DALY, *Secretary*.

“ The Rev. EGERTON RYERSON, D. D.,

Superintendent of Schools, C. W., Toronto.”

For the first time, therefore, is the author of the original drafts of the Common School Acts enabled to lay before the public the communications which accompanied them to the Governor-General, and which explained their principles and objects, and the reasons for the amendments which they contained of former School Laws. The first of these communications was written within three months after the author’s return from more than a twelve-months’ tour in Europe and the United States ; and he now submits to even those who have so grievously misinterpreted his motives and sentiments, and much more to the candid reader of any party, whether the following communications do not contain indubitable evidence that the present Common School Acts were framed with the single view to carry out the system of Responsible Government to its