

professional and other high classes, *which evinces the great growth of the trade, and speaks well for the reading predilections of the people.*"

1869.—"The houses in this department of trade report a large increase of business during the year, especially in books. British publications continue to take the lead in the market."

SECOND OBJECTION—IF BOOKS AND MAPS ARE SUPPLIED, THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT ALSO TO SUPPLY OTHER ARTICLES,—IN FACT—EVERYTHING TO EVERYBODY!

The second objection is that if the Government, through the Education Department, supplies its schools with maps, charts and library books, it ought also, to show its consistency, supply the public, through other departments organized for that purpose, with boots and shoes, bottles and brooms, etc., etc.,—in fact, that it should supply everybody with everything! This is the climax of all the objections. And it is usually urged, in a spirit of lofty contempt for the Department. And yet these very objectors, from the height of their commercial dignity, quite overlook the fact, that in almost every public interest or enterprise of the kind in which the Government embarks, it is invariably its own machinist, its own producer; and—worse than all in their estimation—its own purveyor, or the source of supply for those very wants which it has created or developed, or which have grown up under its superintendence.

INSTANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL INTERFERENCE WITH "THE TRADE" WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Look, for instance, at the army and navy, the militia, the post office, the public departments, and the various other public institutions or interests which the Government of the country specially undertakes to manage, or develop. Look even at the latest application of this principle in England, under the sanction of Parliament, by which the very telegraphs, which were formerly managed by "the trade" in England, have all been absorbed by the Government, because the public interests will in the end be better served by it than by private companies or individuals.

We find also, in our own Province, that the very coats, trowsers, caps, etc., worn by the volunteers and militia, are all supplied by the Government. In England, the Admiralty build their own ships, and sell those not required; and here, and in England, and elsewhere, the public officers are supplied by the Government with all the stationery they require, bought and distributed as the Depository buys books. The Post Office Department is another instance of the Government doing what private enterprise, through the express companies, might readily accomplish. In fact, turn where we will, we find instance after instance of Governmental interference with "the trade" without the slightest let or hindrance, and without a word being said to them by a single individual in "the trades" concerned. The wants and necessities of the country, and the interests of the public are the only standards of duty which the Government acknowledges, or by which it is guided in these matters. It must be sole judge in the case. It would be unreasonable if it were otherwise.

THE OBJECTION FURTHER ANSWERED BY THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

In a recent letter to the editor of the *Globe*, the Chief Superintendent thus replies to these objections, as follows:—

"The Government provides its own stationery, and its military uniforms and equipments for those requiring them, without leaving it to private stationers, tailors or gunsmiths to do these things. The Government aids in supporting public schools, but

only in support of teachers publicly qualified and according to public regulations; so it aids the school and municipal authorities with school apparatus, and prize and library books, but for such only as are proposed or examined and sanctioned by public authority, as a guarantee of public interests. Individuals collectively or alone in any locality have the right, of course, to buy and read such books as they please, as well as buy and wear such clothes, and buy and use such guns as they please, *but national money and national authority should be employed only on what is guaranteed to be for the public good by some national authority.* When the Government and Legislature choose to abdicate the functions they have exercised in these respects, and abandon school interests with their appurtenances of teachers, apparatus and libraries to private caprice and speculation, then the principles on which the attacks upon the Depository branch of this Department will be fully carried out, and all public agencies of education and knowledge, will be abolished."

FURTHER ILLUSTRATIONS—THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS VS. PRIVATE SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, TUTORS.

In his report for 1854, the Chief Superintendent further illustrates this point as follows:—

"The objection is based upon the acknowledged fact, that school requisites and books are supplied to local municipalities *much more economically and advantageously* for the latter by the aid of government than by private traders. It is then a question whether the interest of public schools and municipalities are first to be consulted or those of private individuals?

"It is also to be observed that the same objection may be urged upon the same ground and with equal force against any system of public schools whatever, as they interfere with the gain of the private teacher; for in proportion to the excellence of public schools, and the degree in which they are aided by the legislative grants and local assessments, and education to individuals thus cheapened, will private schools decline, and the interests of private teachers be affected? The same objection lies equally against all endowments or public aid of colleges, as the trade of the private tutor is thereby injured, and for the most part extinguished in regard to the whole business of collegiate teaching. The interests of a class of private teachers are as much entitled to protection against the competition of public schools, as are the interests of a class of private booksellers to protection against the competition of Government in supplying the public schools with the requisite maps, apparatus and libraries. *If the interests of an individual, or a class, are to be placed before those of the community at large, then there can be no system of public instruction whatever, nor any public aid to any branch of the education of the people.* But such an objection has never been admitted in the government and legislation of any enlightened country.

"The ground on which the public schools and municipalities are provided with school requisites and libraries, through the medium of a public department, and by means of public grants, is as unquestionable as it is simple and obvious. *It is the legitimate consequence of having public schools, for if a people determine through their legislature that they will have public schools at all, it is clear that those schools should be made as efficient as possible, and that nothing should be omitted to render them so.* If it is, therefore, the duty of the legislature to promote the education of the people by the establishment of public schools, it is equally its duty to provide all possible facilities and means for supplying those schools with the maps, apparatus and libraries, which render them most instrumental in educating and instructing the people.

"The objection, too, is founded upon a false view of the legitimate