

municipalities for the payment of teachers and the furnishing of schools, the number of noble schoolhouses erected (especially in cities, towns, and villages), and the number of pupils attending the schools, are largely in advance of any previous year.

5. *The system of Public Libraries*, which has been brought into operation during the year, will preëminently form an era in the intellectual history of Upper Canada. It is a system which has been a subject of inquiry, consideration, and preparation for years—which has been a matter of free and public consultation in every county—which leaves the people free to act as counties, townships, cities, towns, villages, or school sections, as they please—which combines all the resources of each municipality to provide useful and entertaining reading for the whole population—and renders accessible to the remotest municipality of the country, and at the lowest prices, the best books for popular reading that are published either in Great Britain or in the United States. Through the medium of these books the sons and daughters of our land may contemplate the lives of the good, the wise, and the great of both sexes and of all ages, survey the histories of all nations, trace the rise and progress of all sciences and useful arts, converse with the sages and bards of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as with the philosophers, poets, scholars, discoverers, inventors, artists, travellers, and benefactors of mankind of all times and countries—exhaustless sources of instruction and entertainment.

A very large proportion of the municipalities of Upper Canada have already shown how worthily they appreciate the advantages offered them by means of public libraries; and it only remains for the other municipalities to follow the noble and patriotic examples thus furnished them.

Altogether, the year 1853 must ever be associated in the minds of the people of Upper Canada with pleasing and proud and grateful recollections, such as should call forth their devout thanksgivings to Almighty God, increase their love to their country, and animate them to industry and enterprise in all their avocations and pursuits.

#### HINTS TO SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

Blank school returns for the half year now closing were sent to trustees with the *Journal of Education* for last month; and all trustees are reminded of the necessity of filling up and transmitting those returns to their local superintendents by the end of the present month (December). These returns are requisite in order to make the apportionment of the half year's school fund; and no school section is entitled to share in the fund, the trustees and teacher of which neglect to make this half yearly return. (See supplementary act, 5th section.) The principle of distributing the school fund among school sections is, that every section shall receive from the fund each six months according to its works during such six months.

2. All trustees of schools are also reminded that the day of the next annual election of school trustees is Wednesday, the *twelfth of January*, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; of which trustees must give at least six days' notice, exclusive of the day on which the meetings are held. As the several clauses of the 6th section of the school act prescribe the duties of annual school meetings, trustees need not specify them in their notices of such meetings.

3. The omission of any one thing authorized by law to be done at an annual school meeting, does not invalidate the other authorized acts of such meeting. In case of objections to the

lawfulness of any election proceedings of an annual meeting, the objecting parties should forthwith give notice of their objections and make their complaint to the local superintendent, who (as authorized by the 6th proviso in the 14th section of the supplementary school act) is authorized, within twenty days, to receive and investigate such complaint, and confirm the proceedings or set them aside, and appoint the time and place of a new election, as he shall judge right and proper. If annual school election proceedings are not objected to and investigated within twenty days after their occurrence, they cannot afterwards be set aside or disturbed.

4. The trustees alone are authorized by law to select and employ their teacher or teachers, and determine the amounts of their salaries, and what sums shall be expended for school purposes of every description. The annual school meeting, or a special meeting, determines (within the limits prescribed by the supplementary school act) *how* such expenses shall be provided for. By the 13th section of the supplementary school act, no man can be taxed according to the whole number of his children, or the number of his children of school age; nor can a rate-bill be imposed exceeding *one shilling and three pence per month* for each child attending school. All the rest of the expenses of the school must be provided for in one or both of two ways—voluntary subscription and rate on property. If a school meeting resolves in favor of voluntary subscription, and only five shillings are thus voluntarily subscribed, the balance required must be provided for by a rate on property, as authorized by the latter part of the seventh clause in the 12th section of the school act. If a school meeting adopts no resolution on the subject, or if a majority at such meeting should adopt a resolution against having a school at all, the trustees can still proceed and provide for all the expenses of their school, under the authority of the clause of the school act just referred to. Thus trustees cannot be prevented from keeping open, maintaining, and furnishing a school as they shall judge fit.

5. Then it is also proper that trustees should be responsible for the exercise of such trust and power.—1. If the trustees do not keep open their school six months of the year by a legally qualified teacher, and thus forfeit and lose to their section the year's apportionment from the school fund, the 9th section of the supplementary school act makes such trustees personally liable to their section (on the complaint of any resident in it before a magistrate) for the amount of the apportionment thus forfeited and lost through their neglect of duty. 2. Each trustee forfeits to the school section one pound five shillings (on the suit of the local superintendent) for every week after the 31st January, that he delays sending his annual school report to the local superintendent. (See supplementary act, 10th section.) 3. Trustees who will not exert all their official powers to fulfil any engagement of their corporation, make themselves personally responsible. (See school act of 1850, 12th section, 16th clause.) 4. A trustee who refuses to perform his duty at any period of the year, or neglects to call the annual school meeting, is also liable to a fine to his school section. (See school act of 1850, 6th and 9th sections.) 5. Trustees are likewise responsible to their section for all moneys received by them. (See same act, 12th section, 18th clause.)

These provisions of the school law amply secure school sections and all parties in them who wish the education of children, against the neglect or misconduct of unfaithful trustees; while the same provisions will justify and help energetic and public spirited trustees in the exercise of the ample powers with which