

said Selectmen, with the help of two Magistrates, shall take such children or apprentices from them, and place them with some masters for years—boys till they come to twenty-one, and girls eighteen years of age complete, which will more strictly look unto and force them to submit unto government, according to the rules of this order, if by fair means and former instructions they will not be drawn unto it."

In the same year the following brief School Code was enacted—

"It being one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures; as in former times, keeping them in an unknown tongue, so in these latter times, by persuading from the use of tongues, so that at least the true sense and meaning of the original might be clouded and corrupted with false glosses of deceivers; and to the end that learning may not be buried in the graves of our forefathers, in Church and Commonwealth, the Lord assisting our endeavours:

"*It is therefore ordered by this Court and authority thereof:* That every township within this jurisdiction, after the Lord hath increased them to the number of fifty householders, shall then forthwith appoint one within their town to teach all such children as shall resort to him, to write and read, whose wages shall be paid, either by the parents or masters of such children, or by the inhabitants in general, by way of supply, as the major part of those who order the prudentials of the town shall appoint; provided that those who send their children be not oppressed by paying much more than they can have them taught for in other towns.

"*And it is further ordered:* That where any town shall increase to the number of one hundred families or householders, they shall set up a Grammar school, the masters thereof being able to instruct youths so far as they may be fitted for the *University*, and if any other town neglect the performance hercof above one year, then every such town shall pay five pounds per annum to the next such school till they shall perform this order."

Such was the commencement of Public Instruction in America. The first educational institution was an endowed College; and the first system of elementary education was a *compulsory* one. It was not left to a settlement of even fifty families to say whether it would have a school to teach reading, writing and arithmetic or not; or to a village or neighbourhood of a hundred families to say whether it would have a classical and mathematical school or not; nor was it left to any parent or master to say whether he would teach his children and domestics to read the English language or not. The Common School education of each child was an original condition of settlement; a fundamental principal of the social compact as between parents and children, masters and apprentices and servants, under the guardianship of the State; and from this seed-plot have grown and multiplied the educational institutions and systems which now enrich and bless America.

Such was the school system of Massachusetts for 200 years—a system sustaining collegiate education out of public revenue, and providing for elementary