

enactments than to endanger the success of the whole system by unstable and capricious legislation.

Our system of Public Schools is so intimately connected with all of the interests of society, that any attempt at its revision should be made with great caution, and the most enlightened experience and well developed principles be brought into requisition.

There seems to be an impression in the minds of many earnest educators in the Province, that *the whole* system of public instruction is wrong—not only that the subjects presented are too numerous, but that the text books are not at all adapted to the conditions of the Public Schools.

As one model after another is brought forward for public consideration, the impression is forced upon the mind that these reforms depend for success upon the *machinery* of education as well as upon the power which set it in motion. The laws which govern the distribution of forces in physics should not be overlooked in ethics; and evils should not be ascribed to defective machinery when there is a want of power to set it properly in motion.

Our Public Schools extend over the entire Province. From the great centers the ramifications run to the entire border, and into the four thousand school-houses scattered along these branches are the children of the Province gathered for instruction. Now it is here, at these extremities—upon these primary fountains—that agencies must be applied which shall send an invigorating and elevating force throughout the whole. It is in vain to expect that power, however strongly applied to the great centers, will traverse, unimpaired, the entire system, or even produce most desirable results in the immediate proximity. The best possible result will be a disproportionate development, while the remote parts will become enfeebled by the extraction of existing vitality. No error is more fatal to the interests of universal education than the attempt to sustain local institutions for privileged classes, and no more injudicious application of public funds can be made than to lavish them upon such institutions whose self-sustaining power is always sufficient for their support whenever its necessity demands their existence.

Nor do we believe the opinion correct which places the University, College and Academy, first in the list of agencies em-