

nation. After he has finished the book, he reviews his notes; and transfers to a commonplace book anything valuable, and where it is to be found. In this way he prepares himself to write on any subject. It is said President Edwards always read with a pen in his hand. The late Dr. Olin, President of the Wesleyan University in Middletown, has given his method of study. He analyzed every thing and made himself master of the subject. His *Life*, recently published, is exceedingly interesting.—When a full account of Daniel Webster's intellectual habits and modes of study shall be given to the world, the scholar will find much to imitate. If, by reading these lines, one young man may be induced to pursue his reading with more attention and care, I shall be amply repaid.—*Puritan Recorder*.

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* Parties in correspondence with the Educational Department will please quote the number and date of any previous letters to which they may have occasion to refer as it is extremely difficult for the Department to keep trace of isolated cases, where so many letters are received (nearly 600 per month) on various subjects.

ALTERATION IN THE BOUNDARIES OF SCHOOL SECTIONS.

As the time approaches when alterations are usually made in the boundaries of Common School Sections, by Township Municipal Councils, we deem it proper to give such extracts from the School Law bearing upon the subject, as may be necessary to aid all parties concerned in the right performance of this duty. We also give extracts from the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, settling some doubtful points.

The XVIIIth section of the School Act of 1850, enacts, "that it shall be the duty of the Municipal Council of each Township in Upper Canada:

"*Fourthly*.—To alter any school section already established, [;] * and to unite two or more school sections into one, at the request of the majority of the freeholders or householders in each of such sections, expressed at a public meeting called by the Trustees for that purpose:† Provided always, that the first

* Any alteration in the boundaries of a section may be effected after due notice to all the parties interested, and independently of the consent or request of its Trustees or inhabitants. But the union of two or more sections into one, cannot be effected without the concurrence of the inhabitants of each of the sections concerned. The Court of Queen's Bench in confirming the decision of the Chief Superintendent, holds that an alteration in the boundaries of a section creates no necessity for a first school meeting, or a new election of Trustees—12 U. C. Q. B. R. The union of two or more sections into one is equivalent to the formation of a new section, and goes into operation (unless specially deferred to a fixed date) immediately after the action of the Township Council; but the union of parts of adjoining townships, and an alteration in boundaries, have no effect until the 25th December following the Act. In all cases, an altered or united section has no legal existence, as such, until after the date fixed for the coming into effect of such alteration or union. No Township Council can leave any part of the township without school section organization.

† The phrase "at the request of the majority of the freeholders or householders in each of such sections," does not refer to the alteration in the boundaries of a "School Section;" but to the union of "two or more Sections into one." An inattention to this fact, and the absence, by a clerical error, of a semi-colon after the word "established," in the second line of the clause, which is inserted in brackets in this edition, has almost invariably led to the

election of Trustees in such section, consisting of two or more sections united, shall be appointed and held in the same manner as is provided for in the fourth section of this Act in respect to a new school section. Provided secondly, that any alteration in the boundaries of a school section shall not go into effect before the twenty-fifth day of December next after the time when it shall have been made; nor shall any step be taken towards the alteration of the boundaries of any school section, nor any application be entertained for that purpose, unless it shall clearly appear that all parties affected by such alteration have been duly notified of such intended step or application: Provided thirdly, that the several parts of such united or altered school sections shall have the same claim to a share of the Common School Fund, to which they would have been entitled had they not been altered or united: And provided fourthly, that any school site, or school-house, or other school property, which shall not be required in consequence of such alterations or union of school sections, shall be disposed of, by sale or otherwise, in such a manner as a majority of the freeholders or householders in the altered or united school sections shall think proper, at a public meeting called for that purpose, and the proceeds shall be applied to the erection of a new school-house, or other Common School purposes of such united or altered sections; * except that the inhabitants transferred from one school section to another, shall be entitled, for the Common School purposes of the section to which they are attached, to such a proportion of the proceeds of the disposal of such school-house or other Common School property, as the assessed value of their property bears to that of the other inhabitants of the school section from which they shall have been separated: Provided fifthly, that union school sections, consisting of parts of two or more townships, may be formed and altered, (under the conditions prescribed in this clause in respect to alterations of other school sections),† by the Reeves and Local Superintendent or Superintendents of the townships out of parts of which such sections are proposed to be formed, at a meeting appointed for that purpose, by any two of such Town Reeves; of which meeting the other party or parties authorized to act with them shall be duly notified:‡ Provided sixthly,

belief that the formal consent of the inhabitants was necessary, before any alterations in the boundaries of a School Section could be effected. Such was not the intention of the framers of the law, as explained by the Chief Superintendent of Education. The construction put upon this clause of the Act has been confirmed by the Court of Queen's Bench. The Chief Justice says, that in effecting alterations, the Municipal Council may take the initiative, and can act without any previous request from a public meeting; but if they enter upon such a measure of their own accord, they must see that all parties affected by the alteration have been duly notified of the intended step; and if they have been applied to on the subject, they are not required to entertain the application until they see that such notice has been given, of which they must be the judges. In *re Ness vs. Municipality of Saltfleet*. Michaelmas, 1855.

* The following extract from the Municipal Corporations Act, provides for the sale of school premises.—"The third clause of the thirty-first section of the Municipal Corporations Act (12th Vict., chap. 81), also enacts that the Municipality of each township shall have power and authority to make a by-law or by-laws * * * for the purchase and acquirement of such real property as may be required for common school purposes, for building common school-houses, and for the sale and disposal of the same when no longer required, and providing for the establishment and support of common schools, according to law."

† See the first note on the left hand column of this page.

‡ This Union can be dissolved by either of the Township Councils concerned, on giving due notice to all parties concerned. See proviso to seventeenth section of the Supplementary School Act of 1853.