

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION,

Upper Canada.

TORONTO: JUNE, 1855.

CIRCULAR FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS.

SIR,

In the number of the *Journal of Education* containing this circular, will be found the apportionment of the Legislative School Grant for the current year, to the various Municipalities of Upper Canada; and the blank semi-annual return for School Trustees, (a copy of which was recently addressed to you for each school section within your charge,) contains all the directions necessary for the distribution of that grant, and of the municipal assessment to the schools under your superintendence.

2. By a recent bill of the Legislature, the chief superintendent is required to distribute to the Roman Catholic separate schools, the share of the Legislative Grant to which they may be entitled by law. You will not, therefore, take the Roman Catholic separate schools into account in the distribution and payments which you will make. The trustees of the Roman Catholic separate schools make their returns to me; where other separate schools exist, you will deal with them as usual, the law not having been repealed in regard to them. The *half yearly* returns of trustees, contain only the *names and attendance* of pupils; the annual reports contain the *census* of the school population of each section, and its *financial accounts*, together with the *school attendance for the year, &c.* The forms for returns and reports of public and separate schools, are precisely the same.

3. The Legislature having increased the school grant, and made an additional appropriation for Public Libraries, and for providing Grammar and Common Schools with maps and apparatus, (not text books,) I am happy to say that I shall now be able to apportion *one hundred per cent.* upon whatever sum or sums may be forwarded by any school section or municipality, for the purchase of school maps and apparatus, as well as books for Public Libraries. This provision will, I have no doubt, contribute largely to furnish the school with those appliances which are of such vast importance to the efficient teaching and the progress of the pupils. Persons, of all ages, and especially children, learn and understand much more readily, and remember more perfectly and permanently what they *see* than what they acquire in any other way. The more extensively therefore, maps, charts, models and objects of natural history, are used in a school by a competent teacher, the more attractive and successful will be the school. Though there is no *royal* road to knowledge, there is a *natural* road to it; and the more the nature of things is exhibited in the course of teaching, the more rapid and thorough will be the progress of the pupil.

4. In your official visits and intercourse, you can, therefore, point out the facilities thus provided for furnishing the schools with suitable maps and apparatus, and the youth, and indeed all classes of people throughout Upper Canada, with Libraries of useful and entertaining reading.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. RYERSON.

EDUCATION OFFICE,
Toronto, 18th June, 1855.

CIRCULAR FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO TRUSTEES OF ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOLS IN UPPER CANADA.

GENTLEMEN,

You will herewith receive a copy of "*An Act to amend the Laws relating to Roman Catholic Separate Schools in Upper Canada.*" For the provisions of this Act, I am not entitled to either praise or blame, as I never saw it until it appeared in print, after its introduction into the Legislature. I have ever believed and maintained that the provisions of the law as previously existing in respect to separate schools, were conceived in a kindly feeling, and were equitable and liberal. I am so persuaded still. But these provisions of the law having been complained of by Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, the new separate school Act is the result—an Act, which, while it maintains our public school system inviolate and even places it upon a firmer and broader foundation than that upon which it rested before, yet confers upon members of the Roman Catholic persuasion, powers and distinctions which are not possessed by any class of Protestants in Upper Canada, and which their own Representatives would never consent to confer upon them.

2. While in our public schools, the religious rights and faith of pupils of all persuasions are equally protected, and while I am persuaded of the superior advantages of those schools in respect to both economy and all the appliances of instruction, I shall, on this very account, in addition to the obligations of official duty, do all in my power to lessen the disadvantages of those who prefer separate schools, and secure to them every right and advantage which the separate school Act confers.

3. I have prepared blank forms of semi-annual returns, which you are to make to me, and on the receipt of which I will determine and pay half-yearly the sums from the Legislative school grant to Roman Catholic separate schools. To enable me to do so the more readily it will be necessary for you to appoint some person in this city to receive and give duplicate receipts for the sums payable to your school according to law. The blank power of attorney enclosed in duplicate can therefore be filled up and presented by your agent to this Department. The enclosed semi-annual returns for Roman Catholic separate schools are precisely the same as those required of the trustees of our public schools. The annual reports required from trustees of Roman Catholic separate schools, are also the same as those required from trustees of the public schools.

4. On application, I will furnish you with school registers, and herewith transmit to you also, blank returns for the first six months of the current year. I will also supply your schools with Maps, Apparatus and Libraries upon the same terms as the public schools; that is, I will add one hundred per cent. to whatever sum or sums you may forward for such Maps, Apparatus, or Library Books as you may select from the descriptions and general catalogues of the department.

5. The several clauses of the Separate School Act are clearly and simply expressed; but should any doubts arise as to your duties or proceedings, I shall be happy to give you every information in my power.

6. As the 14th section of the act referred to, requires me to base the apportionment of each six months, upon the semi-annual returns of the previous year, and as I am anxious to ensure the utmost correctness in making the apportionment for the current year, I will thank you to have the kindness to fill up and return, to this Department, the enclosed blank return, relative to school attendance of last year. The information is not in the possession of this Department, but it can be easily compiled from the school records in your possession.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
E. RYERSON.

EDUCATION OFFICE,
Toronto, June 18th, 1855.