

the next few months, as the people will understand the subject better, and will have better opportunities for consultation, especially at their approaching Annual School, and other Municipal Meetings.

TORONTO, October 25th, 1853.

EGERTON RYERSON.

# 5. CIRCULAR ADDRESSED TO HEADS OF TOWNSHIP MUNICIPALITIES IN UPPER CANADA, IN FORWARDING LIBRARY BOOKS.

I have pleasure in stating that on the.....I forwarded to your address  
.....Box of Library Books, . . .

2. You will please check off each Book from your copy of the printed Catalogue issued by this Department, in order to compare it with the Invoice of your Books . . .

3. As I have been able to obtain many of the Books on more favourable terms than formerly, you will find a considerable number of the Books sent to you charged at less than the prices marked in the printed Catalogue,—one object that I have in view being to provide the Books at the least possible expense to the Municipalities. With your Books are sent gratuitously one copy of four Volumes of the *Journal of Education*; one copy of my Annual School Reports for 1850 and 1851; printed labels to insert on the inside cover of the Books, and a sufficient quantity of strong paper to cover them with. For none of these things is any extra charge made; nor for the Boxes in which they are packed, nor for conveyance of them to the Steamer, or Railroad, as the case may be

4. The Library Books, now being forwarded to the Municipalities . . . I think it proper to offer some general explanations, which, I trust, will prove satisfactory to all parties concerned.

(1). The labour and time required for examining the Books and preparing the printed Catalogue and Regulations, necessarily delayed the Despatch of the Books, until after the middle of August; and, by the English Packet of the First of September, orders were sent for the Books required from England, which were purchased . . . but they were detained in Liverpool, owing to the Steamers being completely filled with goods previously engaged. During the following month, the American purchases were made; but the orders, in some instances, were so varied and large, that the Publishers had not sufficient stock in hand to execute them without two, or three, weeks delay. . . . In order to expedite the despatch of the Books, the method adopted has been to select and send out first the Libraries to the more distant Municipalities, and to those which depended upon water navigation for the conveyance of their Books, and then to despatch the Libraries for the Municipalities whose Books would be conveyed by land. . . .

(2). . . . In a very few instances, the last edition of works mentioned in the printed Catalogue had been exhausted, and another edition had not yet been printed. In such cases, for the Book desired, another from the Catalogue has been selected; . . . or, if another Book equally good, on the same subject, could not be substituted, the completion of the list of Books furnished, has been deferred, until I could get the works I desired. . . .

(3). I have also pleasure in informing you, that I have made a large and valuable addition to the number of Books selected for Public Libraries; and in a few weeks I will cause to be published in the *Journal of Education* a supplementary Catalogue of more than a thousand Volumes, from which, as well as from the Catalogue already printed, you can select Books at your pleasure, in order to make up the balance of those required for your Library, or such as you may hereafter require.

(4). In commencing so large and novel a work, unforeseen difficulties and delays have occurred. Had I consulted convenience and completeness of arrangement, I would have allowed myself six months more time for preparation; but I thought a beginning, under even so serious disadvantages, would be more than compensated by the pleasure and profit experienced by tens of thousands of persons in various Municipalities of Upper Canada in the perusal of useful and entertaining books during the present Winter.

(5). I have thought it due to you and myself to make these frank and detailed explanations, that no misapprehension may exist as to the causes of a few weeks delay in the commencement of so huge an enterprise, and in attempting to supply so large a number of Libraries in the course of a single month; and that all parties concerned might thus perceive that, as no such beginning and pressure can again occur, no such delay and imperfectness in supplying Libraries, will be again experienced.

TORONTO, 29th December, 1853.

EGERTON RYERSON.

P. S.—In the Boxes of Books will be found a number of School Registers, which are intended for Local Superintendents to be furnished gratuitously by them to the Trustees of Schools under their charge. . . .

G. R.