

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor of the EDUCATIONAL RECORD.*

DEAR SIR,—I wish to draw the attention of your readers to what I am sure every teacher in the country considers an injustice to our Academies. I refer to the *time* when the Inspectors visit our country academies. No one, I feel sure will uphold the idea, that, when our schools have the smallest attendance, is the proper time to inspect them; yet, we find that this is actually what is done. Every one knows, or ought to know that our village academies are attended largely, nay, almost entirely by the sons and daughters of farmers, and that from the time when the first maple trees are tapped to midsummer, the vast majority of these farmers cannot spare their sons from home. The natural result is that almost all the larger boys and many of the larger girls leave at the end of the Winter term. This cannot be helped. Is it not an injustice then, to place the Inspector's visit at a time when most of the more advanced pupils have had to leave school? Is it fair to judge of the work of the whole school by that of a few, who may not be at all a fair sample of the others, and most of whom certainly will not be so far advanced in their studies as those who have had to leave? In a great many cases, too, the Spring term pupil only enters at the beginning of that term, having come from some of the district schools and consequently, is not a fair specimen of the academy pupil. Much more might be said on the subject, but I do not wish to trespass too much on your space.

Believe me,

Truly yours,

R. J. HEWTON, M.A.,

Hatley, April 4th, 1884.

Principal Hatley Academy.

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INQUIRIES.

Q. *Is it now compulsory to engage teachers by the year?*—A. The Superintendent's Circular of the 15th November directs that all engagements of teachers after the first of January, 1884, shall be by written contract and by the year, that is for the number of months during which the schools are to be in operation during the year; moreover, the payment of the grant will depend upon this regulation being carried out. Commissioners, who are about to renew their engagements with their teachers, should keep this point before them. Although the teachers are engaged by the year it does not follow that the school sessions must consist of one continuous term. The arrangement of the terms is left in the hands of the Commissioners.