

derstand this duty when the school is regularly visited and the necessities of the section in this way known.

Trustees also have power to suspend or dismiss teachers. We quote the following section of the Law on this point:

"Trustees shall have power to suspend or dismiss from their employ any teacher for gross neglect of duty or immorality, and they shall immediately forward a written statement of the facts to an acting member of the Board of Commissioners for the district, and they shall also forward a statement of their proceedings to the Superintendent; and the pay of any such teacher shall thereupon cease, unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Commissioners upon the appeal of the teacher; but he or she shall be paid rately up to the time of his or her suspension or dismissal."

The power, which this section of the law gives to Trustees should be exercised with a mature judgment, and a careful discrimination of the merits of the case. Cases demanding the exercise of authority thus given to Trustees do, and will continue to occur, and we are quite sure that it will rarely be done wisely, and for the good of all parties, unless the state of the school and the conduct of the teacher are frequently under the eye of the Trustee, and he is prepared to form an opinion from personal observation. The visiting Trustee, in such circumstances, will be the reliable man.

Of all the Trustees, the secretary, when one of the Board should be the most active member, hence too much care cannot be exercised in selecting a suitable man for this office. His duties are to keep all the accounts of the section, to attend to money matters, collecting and disbursing. To keep the school house in repair, and see that it is supplied with comfortable furniture, outhouses, fuel, maps, books and the required apparatus. To supply the teacher with registers, and whatever else may be prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction, and have a general supervision of all school property in the section. The Secretary is required to present to the annual school meeting a carefully prepared written report respecting all expenditure of school funds; it should be a detailed account of the financial state of the section, and such as any ordinary business man can understand. The accounts should be accompanied with vouchers for all moneys expended during the year.

Rate-payers have a right to demand such a written and detailed report with vouchers, and should insist upon having it from the secretary. The neglect of this duty on the part of the secretary, or carelessness on the part of the rate-payer in demanding it, often involve a whole section in difficulty and sometimes in litigation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Editor.

Sir,—Will you be pleased to inform us through the Journal of Education, whether or not, schools can be organized by subscription, and, where teachers are willing, for the Provincial and County monies alone:

Mr. Rand, our former Superintendent of Education, in the Journal of Education, for October, 1868, said "that teachers receiving only the County Fund and Government Grant, need not expect recognition as teaching a public school." Mr. F. W. George, our former Inspector of Schools, told me in conversation, "that schools could be taught by subscription," but afterwards on being asked at a semi-annual meeting, qualified it in this way "that he would only allow it in exceptional cases, and not for two terms in the same section, and that in a place like Mill Village, Parrsboro, he would not allow it at all." Neither of them could, and I think never did, attempt to withhold the public monies from teachers for either of the above reasons. The law is fulfilled when the school is free, taught by a licensed teacher in a proper place, and to the satisfaction of the Trustees and School Commissioners. This law, like every other, must be administered in the spirit of it. Suppose a school taught by subscription were not strictly legal, would the Government withhold the public monies if it were otherwise legally taught? I think they would not heed objections made by interested, malicious or ignorant

parties. Schools have been frequently taught in this, since we had the law for taxation and the teachers never failed to draw their allowances. In every case where monies have been withheld by the legal authorities, because the proceedings were not strictly legal, the Government, on its being represented that the money was fairly and honestly earned, has ordered it to be paid. The object of the Legislature and Government is, that there be, if possible, a school in every section, and that every public school shall be free. To raise support for schools, salaries are provided for teachers from the provincial funds, a county tax is imposed and the law permits further taxation in a section if needed. The School Act of 1864, and its amendments, nowhere provides that schools may not be aided by subscription or donation, or that they may not be taught for the Provincial and County monies alone. Such schools are therefore not forbidden by the law, and I have never heard of any order of the Council of Public Instruction interfering with the natural and rational operation of the law. The Provincial and County monies are now so ample that some teachers are willing to work for them alone. If they could, why should they be prevented? In many cases these monies amount to more than teachers received formerly and all of it in cash.

It is enacted that the rate-payers at their annual meetings or other meetings duly called, shall vote a necessary section tax. Persons in interpreting the law emphasis the word shall in the clause as though it were imperative. There must be a tax they say however small. It merely means *may* as is evident, because the clause referred to gives the power to the majority present at a legal meeting to vote money or not as they think proper. If the public monies alone, or if the public monies together with a subscription or donation, render a section tax unnecessary, what then? Must one be imposed in order to have a legal public school? In the case of subscription the only difficulty in the way is, that the Trustees are not bound to act upon it, but if they are willing or the teacher is willing to assume the necessary responsibility, the law requires nothing more. Where majorities in a section fail to vote the necessary section tax, on trial it would be found that persons in the majority would be willing to subscribe liberally. It would therefore only be right for the school authorities to encourage subscriptions in aid of schools to save the odium and inconvenience of a second tax, I might say a third tax, for schools. What difference could it make to the efficiency or freedom of the school whether the section money needed were raised voluntary or by compulsion? Suppose \$20.00 or \$40.00 of section money were needed and some friend of the school were to step forward and say to the Trustee, here is the money as a gift, go on with your school. Could they refuse the money, or refuse to act? I think if they did they would be liable to the penalty imposed by law for neglect of duty. Subscription is much the same, it is in the nature of a gift and can be enforced, and will do equally as well if the Trustees will act upon it, or if they will not, if the teachers is satisfied with it. Your comments, Mr. Editor, will enable us to know what we can and what we cannot do in the premises and I hope you will favor us with them in the next issue of the Journal of Education.

T. D. DICKSON.

Parrsboro, 24th November, 1873.

TO MARY.

BY EARNEST NORTHBROOK.

Farewell! Thou word so sadly sweet:
Sad for thou art a parting prayer;
Sweet as the dreamy hum of bells
That softly swells
Upon the air.

Oh, linger on our lips, fond word!
Oh, ring yet once again, sweet bell!
And as thy murmurs faint and die
Our hearts shall sigh
Farewell, farewell!