

Schools for Upper Canada into possession of the premises, for a Provincial Normal School and Education Office. The intimation of the order was dated 17th September, 1846. The Board contracted forthwith for the thorough repair of the buildings, which has been effected for little less than £550. I believe the selection of these premises will be fully justified by the test of experience.

*V. Selection and Recommendation of Books for the use of Common Schools in Upper Canada.*

One part of the duty of the Board of Education is "To examine, and recommend or disapprove of, all Books, Plans, or Forms which may be submitted to them with a view to their use in Schools"; and I lost no time in laying before the Board specimens of the National School Books, and the advantageous terms on which, I believe, from personal conversations with the Commissioners in Dublin, these admirable books could be obtained; as also permission to reprint them in Upper Canada. An official communication was directed to be addressed in behalf of the Board to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, on the subject; in reply to which the Board received permission to reprint the National School Books in Upper Canada, and the offer, on the part of the Commissioners, to supply the Dublin editions for Canadian Schools at cost prices, nearly one hundred per cent below the retail selling price of these books to the British public.

The Board, feeling that their duty in this respect was one of great delicacy, as well as of great importance, resolved to proceed in a manner the least liable to objection from any quarter. There being no series of School Books published in Upper Canada, the Board thought it best not to interfere with any of the few isolated School Books which are published in the Province, either by way of recommendation or disapproval; but to recommend the complete and admirable series of National School Books, and to adopt such measures to carry their recommendation into effect as would not at all affect the competition and fair profits of the Trade, while they would greatly promote the advantages of the public and the best interests of our Common Schools, in regard to both the prices and the character of School Books.

The Board, in the first instance, advertised for Tenders for