

It is, on the contrary, to keep them from going there that they should be trained and taught, at least, in the common branches. When so many efforts are being put forth for the improvement of humanity, it is difficult to believe that we shall have to wait much longer for this necessary reform."

The "parental school" is felt also by Halifax to be a desirable, if not necessary adjunct of a compulsory system. And if it is ever to become a generally enforced law, many other localities will feel the need of such a provincial institution.

Through the JOURNAL OF EDUCATION, which goes to every Board of School Trustees in the Province, I proposed a modification of our present law, and asked for the opinions of trustees on the matter. I received but one communication, which was not in favor of the usefulness of the present system. The advantage of the modification, to which reference has been made, appears to be in giving the trustees the power to exempt parents or guardians from fines accruing under the general laws of the province, providing an appeal to the Board of Trustees before the 31st of July, should be made with evidence of inability to clothe children, or to send them on account of health, or of their attending a private school, etc. The ordinary Board of Trustees has a great deal of inertia. It cannot now move to fine those violating the law. The inertia in this case is against the enforcement. If the board showed as much inertia under the proposed conditions—in remitting fines—this inertia would work for enforcement. At least, the latter function would not be so unpleasant as the former.

I sketch the principle of the proposed law here :—

1. The names and ages of all pupils in the section and their parents and guardians should be enrolled in the register. The register is already prepared for it.

2. At the end of the year the teacher, in the usual manner, should sum the attendance of each pupil in one column, and the days lost in another, as at present.

3. The secretary of the trustees should take the number of days lost by the children of each family, call them cents, and as such add them to the poll-tax to be collected after the first of August.

4. At different times of the year, and finally, on the close of the school about the first week of July, parents should be notified of the amount of days of absence made by their children.

5. During the last week in July the Board of Trustees would sit for a day or more to hear appeals against the "absentee" tax; and if the reasons were sufficient, the tax might be remitted in whole or in part. If no appeal should be made before the 31st July, the secretary should simply collect the absentee tax with the poll and rate tax.

The maximum tax for the absence of one child without excuse for a whole year would be only about \$2.00. But the knowledge that "each day's absence will increase my tax" should help to make some people thoughtful. It would tend to constant regularity, whereas the present system is satisfied with a minimum attendance, which allows of much injurious irregularity.

Then, again, there would be a fairness in the "absentee" tax; for the section loses about a cent from the county fund for each absence, so that the tax would be merely a refund to the section of what it lost by the child's absence, and what the section is at present forced to pay for each day's absence. These notes are made to call attention to the plan, with the view of learning whether it would be likely to be an improvement.

II.—IN ENGLAND.

I quote the following to show the views of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education in England, as expressed by the Vice-President of the Council, at Longton, North Staffordshire, November, 1897. Nova