

COPY.

The Chief Justice by direction of the board wrote the following letter to His Honor the President,

November 10th, 1798.

Sir,

The Committee on His Grace the Duke of Portland's letter on the subject of schools, direct me to enquire of your honor, whether it is your pleasure that we should, each of us, report his opinion separately, or whether the Chairman is to report to you, a plan agreed upon by us all.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

(SIGNED) J. ELMSLEY, C. J.

To his honor the President, &c. &c.

Sir,

York, 12th Nov. 1798.

I have had the honor to receive your letter of Saturday desiring to know whether the members of the committee on His Grace the Duke of Portland's letter on the subject of schools are to report their opinion separately, or whether the Chairman is to report the plan agreed upon by them all. In answer to which I can only have the honor to say, that in my opinion a report from the chairman of the plan unanimously agreed upon would be less troublesome both to the Committee and His Grace, and would probably throw equal if not more light upon the subject than the opinions of the members stated separately. I shall therefore only request a general report signed by the chairman; however I do not mean by this to preclude any of the gentlemen from favoring me with their own sentiments, in addition to the general advice, as I believe it is the desire of His Majesty's ministers to obtain all the information possible on a subject of such importance to the future welfare of this Province.

I have &c.

(SIGNED) PETER RUSSELL.

To the Hon'ble John Elmsley, C. J.

COPY.

Council Chamber at York,

1st December, 1798.

Read the report of the Board formed of the members of His Majesty's Executive Council and the Judges and Law officers of the Crown in Upper Canada who were directed to take into their consideration the letter from His Grace the Duke of Portland on the Establishments of Grammar Schools and other places of Education

in this Province, and the same having received the approbation of the President in Council, it was ordered, that the Report be fairly copied, that it may be transmitted without delay to His Grace the Duke of Portland for the information of His Majesty.

The Report is as follows:

Council Chamber,

1st. Dec. 1798.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that in obedience to your order of the 6th ultimo, the members of His Majesty's Executive Council, the Judges, and the Law officers of the Crown met together in this place on the nineteenth ultimo and on several occasions since, and took into their consideration the letter of His Grace the Duke of Portland on the Establishment of Grammar schools and other places of Education in the Province.

It is not to be expected that on a subject of such extent, the opinions of so many persons as were assembled to consider of it should exactly coincide. I have, however, the satisfaction to say that in our general views of the system to be adopted we are nearly agreed, and that the difference with respect to the mode in which it is to be carried into effect is not very considerable.

As it was Your Honour's pleasure that the chairman should collect the opinions of the several members of the board and digest them into one report, I took the liberty of distributing the subject into the five following heads, and of requesting their thoughts on each, viz:

1. The sum to be raised—2. The number of acres to be appropriated—3. The purposes to which the fund is to be applied—4. The number of schools, and the places where they are to be erected.

5. The number now necessary.

It is now my duty to state to your honor the general result of the whole, and should I either misrepresent the sentiments of the Board or fail to give them the effect they deserve, I trust that Your honour will impute the blame to me only, and do justice to the several members by referring to the opinion of each which I have subjoined by way of schedule.

When the subject was first opened it seemed to be the unanimous opinion, that the intention of the Royal Founder of the free Grammar schools and University of Upper Canada could not be effectuated but by a liberal provision for their establishment and maintenance: and each member of the Board seemed deeply impressed with a conviction that in making his estimate of