

the duty of School Trustees to collect the Teachers salary, or at least to see that it is paid. It is a duty however which, so far as my experience and means of information extend, they very rarely discharge, and one in the discharge of which it is vain, for obvious reasons, to expect that they would, in general, heartily engage; nay, I have known instances, hinted at above, of most shameful violations of the Statute, in which Trustees not only participated, but were principal actors.

My own opinion decidedly is, that the most fair and equitable mode of provision, and appropriation, would be by a general rate, including the whole province, to be thrown into a common fund, for providing the means of education to poor, equally with rich settlements. This would equalize the burden, and lighten the pressure, just where it could least easily be borne. Education would otherwise be cheapest where the people could afford to pay the best price for it, while in poor, thinly peopled, or young settlements, it might not be attainable at all, without such assistance from the Treasury as might be equivalent, in a more objectionable shape, to the measure I have suggested. I repeat therefore, that a general rate for the whole province, appears to me the best mode of provision, and the next best a general rate for each county.

But even should both these propositions be rejected, as the excess of ultra-liberalism, and it be determined that each school district, whatever its circumstances, must provide the means of education for its own population, it must be evident that, when all must contribute according to their ability, conterminous districts, poor or thinly settled, and unable each to support a Teacher, would have it much more in their power, than under present circumstances to avail themselves, alternately, of the services of the same Schoolmaster, as has sometimes been found necessary even in older countries.

From what has been stated, it will be evident that my proposition contemplates providing for the support of Schools entirely by assessment. An approximation to the Scotch system however, which combines assessment with voluntary contribution, seems hitherto to have been, and probably still is, looked upon more favourably by our legislators. I proceed therefore to remark that, in Scotland, the assessment being levied on landed property alone, which there is in comparatively very few hands, the admixture of voluntary contribution became a measure of necessity, to prevent the imposition of an unwarrantable burden upon the land-holders, and the placing of the great mass of the population, as far as education was concerned, on the footing of paupers. I have, however, always understood, that, in this province, it was contemplated to assess property, and means of every description; and here, therefore, the same necessity could not exist.

But, even in its native country, it appears to me, that this partial assessment and admixture of voluntary support, are defects in the Scottish system. The tax being laid wholly upon landed property, no provision is made for education, just where it is most wanted, in the large towns, where poverty, wretchedness and vice abound, in all their varied and repulsive forms. On the other hand, even in the most fertile and populous country parishes, those who have numerous families, often feel the tuition fees, low as these undoubtedly are, too heavy a tax on their slender means, to admit of their giving such an education to their children as they could wish, while that independence of spirit, which has ever formed so valuable a feature in the Scottish character forbids their accepting it as charity.

In poor, thinly settled, and consequently extensive parishes, also, especially in the Highlands and Islands, there were, not infrequently, no sufficient means of putting schools in operation. The destitute state of these districts at length attracted public attention.—Societies were formed to furnish them with the means of instruction, and the exertions of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, aided by the Royal munificence, was directed to the same benevolent object. Such liberality undoubtedly does honour to the Crown, to the General Assembly, and to the Societies; but the necessity for its exertion, only the more strikingly exemplifies the insufficiency of the system, to meet the wants of such a population.

There are, moreover, causes at work in Scotland, modes of thinking and acting, which tend to correct the natural defects of the system, and prevent the abuses to which it is liable, which either do not exist at all, or operate with inferior force among us. But this letter has already extended to such a length, and the necessity for bringing the series to a close is so evident, that I can, even to the principal of these, afford little more than a passing notice. I would observe however, 1st, that the nomination to a vacant School, belonging to the parties assessed, the landed proprietors, who, in that country, are few in number, who, generally speaking, are all men of liberal education, and are assisted in the necessary examination of the candidates by the clergyman of the parish,

(whose concurrence is also necessary to give validity to the Teacher's appointment), constitutes one obvious and important advantage. For the sake of their own families, these proprietors must always desire a Teacher of superior abilities, while no reasonable motive can be imagined for their appointing an inferior one. But even should an event so improbable take place, the Church Courts' having the power to prevent the admission, and compel the removal of unqualified Teachers, affords the most ample security that the interests of education would be duly protected.

2dly, The estimation in which mental acquirements are held, and the high standard of qualification and character required for the office, combine to prevent any of those modes of diminishing the Teacher's salary, which are too prevalent in this province; while the power of fixing the tuition fees being vested in the landed proprietors, relieves the Teacher from all responsibility on the subject, and ensures, as far as possible, a due regard to his comfort, combined with a judicious accommodation to the wants of the community.

I shall only add, that paying the Teacher in produce, and boarding him about from house to house, are altogether unknown. On the contrary a comfortable house, with at least a quarter of an acre of ground attached for a garden, are secured to him by the law of the land, in addition to his Salary and School-fees, while the appointment is always for life, unless forfeited by negligence or misconduct.

It has been urged as the distinguishing feature—the characteristic excellence of the Scottish system that while, by assessing the rich, it afforded assistance to the poor in the education of their children, it at the same time preserved their independence by fixing a rate of tuition fees; but surely if rich and poor are alike assessed, in proportion to their means, the same end is gained, while the poor man, by being enabled to send all his children to school, has their education much more satisfactorily and sufficiently provided for.

Before concluding this series of letters, I shall attempt the consideration of some of the most cogent or plausible objections to the introduction of Assessment.

Mean time,

I remain, &c.

SCOTUS.

Halifax, 24th Jan. 1840.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

FROM LATE ENGLISH PAPERS.

The Earl of Durham is severely indisposed at Lambton Castle, and will remove to the south with all convenient speed.

By a recent regulation, deserving soldiers, on quitting the army, are presented with a medal and a sum of money.

A decree for the dissolution of the Cortes appeared in the *Madrid Gazette* of the 19th. The new Cortes is summoned to meet on the 18th of February, 1840.

According to the *Morning Chronicle*, Lord Auckland has not only been successful in Afghanistan and in Persia, but the Nepalese and Burmese quail before his vigorous policy. A strong corps of observation has been formed on the frontier of Nepal.

The Marquis of Anglesey, is we are told, to be elevated to a Dukedom, by the title of the Duke of Mona.

Rumours of Ministerial changes are again current. Lord Melbourne is sick of the Premiership, and wishes to throw it up. A majority of the Cabinet wish to shelve Lord Normanby, who sighs for a Dukedom.

The Duke of Buccleuch's birthday was celebrated in several parts of Scotland in a manner that evinces the great affection and respect, with which that distinguished nobleman is regarded in that part of the United Kingdom.

We learn, from undoubted authority, that the following is a correct list of the honours which her Majesty, has graciously intimated her intention to confer on the undermentioned eminent persons for their services during the late expedition into Afghanistan, viz. Lord Auckland, to be raised to the dignity of an earl of the United Kingdom; Sir John Keane, to be created a baron of the United Kingdom; Mr. Macnaughten and Colonel Cottinger, to be made baronets; Lieut. Col. Wade, to be knighted and made a companion of the order of the bath; Brigadier Sale, to be made a knight commander of the order of the Bath; Captain Thomson, to be major and a companion of the order of the Bath.

Intelligence of considerable importance had been received from India, the dates being, from Calcutta October 13, Madras 19, and Bombay 28. On the 18th September, the Anglo-Indian troops set out on their return from Ghizal. They were to stop for a few days at Kalat, and depose the chief of that principality, for alleged unfriendly acts toward the English interests, and especially for taking an active

part in the hostilities encountered by the troops on their march to Afghanistan.

The Delhi Gazette of the 3d of October, states that by the treaty with Kanran, we agree to put the city and fortifications of Herat into thorough repair and to indemnify the Shah for the loss sustained by the ravages of the Persian army. He agrees to acknowledge Shah Soojah King of Afghanistan, and to hold no correspondence with any of the states westward of Herat. Accounts from Caloul mention that the King has arrested Hajee Kakur, Hajee Dost Mahomed Khan, and other powerful chiefs of whose treachery he had ample proofs.

A vast conspiracy for the overthrow of the English power in India is said to have been discovered at Kurnaul, an independent Mahomedan principality the fort of which is 270 miles from Madras. A strong force was despatched thither by the Governor General, and the fort was invested and taken, without resistance, as well as that of Joudpore. The following account is given of the discoveries at Kurnaul:—

"The discoveries have been almost exclusively confined to the Nuwab's Zenana which proves to be a perfect arsenal upon a most extended scale; and you will stare to hear that there have been found concealed in various ways under ground and in cellars, whose doors and entrances had been built up—between 400 and 500 pieces of artillery, of which fully 100 are in such a state of equipment as to be ready for active service in the field at a days warning.

"A great many exceedingly well constructed furnaces are now standing in perfect order for casting guns and shot, and the ruins of many have been found in various places. An immense quantity of shot of all sizes, grape and cannister, langridge, hand grenades, and shells of various diameters—all made of a species of pewter, but containing more lead and less zinc than the compound so called usually does, have been found; while of copper, lead and zinc, a considerable store has been ferreted out. Several very fine brass guns, (I should mention that almost the whole of the pieces found in the fort are of brass,) have been dug up, and two mortars of the same metal, which for size, and perhaps also for beauty of casting, promise to rank as the most remarkable of their genus in Europe.

BERMUDA, JAN. 14.

Arrived, on Wednesday last, H. M. S. Rover, Comd. Symonds, from Carthage and Jamaica, with Specie for the Commissariat.—The Rover sailed again on Sunday, for Jamaica.

Sailed yesterday morning, H. M. S. Winchester, Captain Parker, bearing the Flag of Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Harvey, K. C. B. for Barbadoes and Jamaica.—Passenger, T. Woodman, Esq.

H. M. S. Inconstant, Captain Fring, arrived at Jamaica on the 18th ult. from Vera Cruz, with \$450,000 on board for the Government and Colonial Bank, and sailed on the 21st for Barbadoes and England.—Capt. the Hon. P. P. Carey, late of the *Comus*, took passage in the *Inconstant*.

Ships of War at Port Royal on the 21st ult. *Racer Snake*, *Skijack*, *Dee*, *Hecla* and *Spitfire*.

By the Rover, we have received files of Jamaica Papers to the 21st ult. and a letter of same date.—The Island, generally, was somewhat more healthy than at our former accounts thence. The weather had been very unseasonable; no sea breeze, but calm and oppressive by day, and at night, strong chilly winds from the north. The Commander of the Forces, Sir W. Gonn, had not arrived from England; though accounts had been received of his having embarked in the Merchant Ship *Clarendon*, on the 1st Nov.

The two Houses of Parliament and the Executive continued on the best of terms, and the public business of the Colony was being transacted in a most friendly and satisfactory manner. The House of Assembly had fixed the Governor's Salary at £8000 sterling. The Legislature was about to adjourn for the Christmas holidays, and would not meet again till March, to finish the business.

ST. JOHN, N.B. JAN. 16.

The Portland Advertiser gives a sombre account of the financial affairs of the State of Maine, and says that after the disgrace and cost of the Aroostook expedition and the expenditure of five hundred thousand dollars, the boundary question is not advanced one single iota.

JANUARY 21.

FIRE.

Between 11 and 12 o'clock last night, the appalling cry of Fire was again resounded through our Streets, which was soon found to proceed from Barns in the rear of the dwelling houses of the Messrs. Kinnear and Wm. Hutchinson, West side of Germain-street between Queen and St. James' streets. There being several barns in a cluster, and two at least of them being on fire before discovered, it is difficult to know precisely in which it originated. People having generally retired to rest, the night cold, and water scarce,