

ments and management in all school matters, in such section, village, town or city, and have the power to give effect to their estimates, engagements and plans of proceeding. These powers and duties appertain to all Trustee Corporations, whether in town or country. It is not the office of a public meeting, in the country, any more than in town, to determine what sum or sums shall be raised and expended for school purposes; that is, in all cases, the right and duty of the Trustees, as may be seen by referring to the 12th section of the School Act, 4th and 5th clauses, and the 3rd, 4th and 6th clauses of the 24th section.

9. In the country, a public meeting called in each School Section decides upon the *manner* in which such sum or sums shall be raised, but nothing as to the *amount*; and if the means thus provided are insufficient to defray the expenses estimated and incurred by the Trustees, they are authorized by the 12th section, latter part of the 7th clause of the Act, to assess, and cause to be collected, any additional rate on the property of the School Section that may be necessary to pay the balance of such expenses. By the 9th clause of the same section, Trustees can exercise their own discretion and convenience, either to assess and collect all their school rates themselves or by their Collector, or apply to the Township Council to do so, and the Council is required to give effect to their application, relating as it does to the constituents of whom they are the school representatives, the same as the members of the council or the municipal representatives of the township. In such case, the Council has not to consider the *amount* required; (that is with the Trustees to determine;) nor any representations which may be made by any parties for or against such amount required; but simply the *manner* in which an annual meeting, or other public meeting called for the purpose, in the school section concerned, has agreed to defray the expenses of the school. Should the Trustees determine not to apply to the Township Council, but collect by their own authority all moneys they require for school purposes, the 2nd, 8th and 9th clauses of the 12th section of the Act give them all the necessary powers to do so.

10. The object of leaving the *manner* of providing for all school expenses to the decision, in the first instance, of a public meeting in each school section, was not to limit the Trustees as to the *amount* of such expenses, or to cripple them as to the means of raising such amount, since they are specially empowered to do so by rate, if the means agreed upon at the public meeting are insufficient for that purpose; but the object was to make the question of provision for the education of youth a subject of public discussion and decision annually in each School Section, and thus to diffuse useful knowledge and make the people acquainted with and alive to their own interests and duties—to enable them to provide for the support of their school in their own way, either by voluntary subscription or by self-imposed tax—and above all, to decide whether their school should be a *free* or a *rate-bill* school.

11. But while the Trustees of each School Section are clothed with enlarged powers for the fulfilment of their important trust, they are also subject to additional responsibilities. They are required to account to their constituents at each annual meeting, by presenting "a full and detailed account of the receipts and expenditures of all school moneys received and expended in behalf of the School Section for any purpose whatsoever, during the year then terminating;" and if the account is not satisfactory to the majority of the meeting, arbitrators are chosen by each party to decide, and are invested with power to make each of the Trustees or any other person account for and pay all the money due by him to the School Section. This is a responsibility to which members of the Legislature, of county, city, town or township councils are not subject,

and affords to the rate payers in each school section ample security for the faithful expenditure of moneys.

12. In cities, towns and incorporated villages, these Boards of Trustees, varying from six to sixteen members in each, are invested with larger powers than the Trustees of School Sections. Each Board has the charge of all the Common Schools in the municipality, determines their number and kind, whether primary, intermediate, or high schools, whether classical or English, whether denominational or mixed, whether many or few, the amount and manner of their support. Each Board appoints its own local Superintendent of Schools, and a local Committee for the immediate oversight of the schools under its charge. The Board of Trustees in each city, town or incorporated village, is not required, as in rural school sections, to call a public meeting to consider the manner of supporting one or more of the schools in such municipality; in most cases this would be impossible; in no case is it required. The only public meetings which Boards of Trustees in cities, towns, and incorporated villages are required to call, are for the *election of Trustees*. If they choose, they can call meetings for any school purpose whatever, like the Mayor of a city, or the Reeve of a town or village; and in any case of their thinking it advisable to call a school meeting, the Act provides for enabling them to do so, and directs their mode of proceeding, so that it may be done under the authority and protection of law. In some instances, objections have been made to the lawfulness of the proceedings of Boards of Trustees, because public meetings had not been convened to consider the school estimates and plans of such Boards. As well might the lawfulness of any financial proceedings of the Municipal Council of a county, town, township, or village, be objected to upon the same ground.

13. The Municipal Council of each city, town or incorporated village, is required to levy and collect whatever sum or sums of money may be required by the Board of Trustees for School purposes. The Board of Trustees (elected by all the tax payers,) and not the Municipal Council, represents such city, town, or incorporated village in all school matters; but as the Council has assessment rolls and employs collectors for other purposes, it is more economical and convenient to have the school rates levied and collected by the Council than for the Board of Trustees to employ a separate class of officers for that purpose. In the city of New York, and various towns in the neighbouring States, Trustees are elected in each Ward of the city or town, as in Canada, and constitute collectively a Board of Education or School Trustees for such city or town; and the Municipal Council of the city or town is required to levy and collect whatever sum or sums are required from time to time by the Board of Education or School Trustees.

14. The members of the Board of School Trustees in our cities, towns, and incorporated villages, are not personally responsible for school moneys, because the law is so constructed that all school moneys, even the rate-bills, of each city, town, or village, must be paid into the hands of the Treasurer. But each Board of Trustees must prepare and publish annually, an account of the receipts and expenditure of all school moneys subject to their order.

15. Objections have been made in some instances to the erection of large central School Houses in cities, towns, and villages; and the authority of the Boards of Trustees has been called in question, because exception has been taken to their proceedings. The Government itself may err in its proceedings, but that is no disproof of its authority. The Boards of Trustees in cities, towns, and villages, and the Trustees in many country places, are but commencing the greatest work connected with the welfare of their country; and they must expect opposition from mistaken ignorance, sectional