

School and a School House; and a difficulty of reconciling these with the reported number of Teachers.

Taking our Superintendent's interpretation as given in the extract, there were in 1853, 818 districts provided with one or more Schools; 680 Schools; and 657 Teachers, and 760 School Houses.

In 1853, the returns show 830 districts said to be provided with one or more Schools; 774 Schools; 714 Teachers; and 831 School Houses.

Now as to the Statistics for 1853, 700 School Houses would not allow one to each district, much less would 680 Schools; nor would 657 Teachers allow one to each School.

Again, as to the Statistics for 1853, 831 School Houses would supply 830 districts with one School House each; but this is irreconcilable with Inspector Clinch's statement, (p. 48,) from which we must infer that some districts have got several Schools, and, consequently, several School Houses. I must suppose that the difference in the number of Teachers and Schools (50) is owing to the fact that some Teachers, after completing their engagements in one district, were employed immediately afterwards in other districts. Thus, in Albert we have 33 Schools and 18 Teachers; in Charlotte, 123 Schools and 57 Teachers; in St. John, 64 Schools and 52 Teachers, and in Kent the marvellous fact of thirty-six Schools and forty-six Teachers, as to which there must be some mistake, for the law sanctions only one Teacher to each School.

It is surprising that our Superintendent was not ashamed to put down 14,511 as the increased number of weeks during which the Schools had been kept open, for he knew perfectly well that the returns for 1853 were for only a part of the year. It is equally so, that he should have stated the average increase of the duration of the Schools to be 14 weeks. His predecessor distinctly stated that the 19 weeks average calculated by him referred to a period of six months only. Yet Mr. d'Avray and Mr. Duval also (p. 40) choose to ignore the fact—the former to get up an improved appearance in educational affairs under a system in the continuance of which he feels a pecuniary interest; and the latter to bolster up a defective argument used by the late Superintendent, which I elsewhere exposed. I cannot but think it would be much better if Mr. Duval would give the public some of the information to which they are entitled, respecting his own department, before volunteering calculations and statements in aid of which he does not bring the necessary amount of good faith.

As to all the averages specified by our Superintendent, it is as well to announce once for all, that he does not appear to understand how to calculate them, and consequently I have detected

ed a mass of absurdities in attempting to prove his work.

In calculating the average time, in weeks, the Schools have been kept open, he has in eleven instances divided the total of the time for the County, by the number of Schools, once, as in Kent, by the number of Teachers, and twice, as in Northumberland and Victoria, by no number representing any specified fact; and in calculating the average of the averages, he has summed up the averages, so miscalculated, and divided them by the number of averages—a procedure which can give a correct result in only one class of cases, which will never occur in our School statistics.

There can be no legal School without a Teacher; nor more than one Teacher to each School. The average, therefore, ought to be calculated by dividing by the number of Teachers; but in attempting this, we find that 18 Teachers could not have taught 903 weeks in Albert in one year; nor 60 Teachers 3230 weeks in Northumberland; nor 52 Teachers 2710 weeks in St. John.

Disregarding all discrepancies, and calculating by Schools, the average duration would be 35 weeks; and calculating by the number of Teachers the average would be 37 weeks 5 days. But all such Statistics are valueless, and I would not have troubled you with so much detail but for an ulterior object and argument.

In 1850 the number of children attending the Schools was 29,030, and in making out that number I have reason to believe that all the necessary deductions were made. The returns for 1853 embraced six months only, and had the pupils who entered during the other period been added, there would have been such an excess above the number for 1850 as would have nearly met the alleged increase for 1853. I shall have some further observations to make on this point by and by.

"The average attendance of pupils of both sexes in 1852, appears to have been 15, while that for 1853 is 19½ for males, and 13 for females; but it must be borne in mind, that the latter averaged have been struck for 14 Counties, while the former ones are for 13 Counties only, and that had the totals been divided by 14 instead of by 13, the result would have been much smaller."

It may be that the Returns made to the Superintendent left no alternative in trying to get the average of the averages referred to in the preceding quotation; but to divide their sum by the number of Counties for which they had been calculated. Such results however cannot be depended on, and for comparative purposes are valueless, because it is scarcely possible that such a calculation should give a true result.

Our Superintendent is clearly in error when he adds the summer and winter averages for

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1852, Table
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1850	In- crease.
101	5
830	12
744	56
14,127	18,509
17,106	14,511
83	14

figures. In
744 ought to
be 86; and

a calculation
Superintendent

in the present
is meant by a