

public education as a judicious measure, and one likely to secure public schools for many sections which would not otherwise have them. Nor is there any reason to doubt that great will be the results if commissioners, trustees, and inspectors promptly and wisely exercise the authority for good with which this new clause in our school-law clothes them. It is to be hoped that it will not be permitted to remain a dead letter upon our Statute Book, while there are 200 sections in the Province without the privilege of a school. I cannot here refrain from the passing remark, that increased facilities for conferring a blessing, increase in an equal ratio the obligation of duty as respect those in whose hands is placed the instrument for good.

It is to be hoped that this clause for compulsory schools will not be lost sight of by the educational authorities of the different counties: and that its wise and efficient working will obviate for the present at least, the demand for *compulsory attendance*, which must be the next progressive step, and, in all probability, will be, as soon as the public mind is sufficiently educated for the measure.

TEACHERS.

In 1873, there were employed in our public schools during the winter term, 1551 teachers of all grades, being an increase of 16 over the corresponding term of the preceding year. In the summer term there were 1697 teachers of all grades, being an increase of 47 over the corresponding term of 1872. By an inspection of the tables in the appendix, it will be seen, however, that this increase is largely of the lower grades and of female teachers. I have, in former Reports, directed special attention to these two facts—*i. e.*, the large and steady increase of female teachers and of those of the lower grades. I have now again to state that the causes which have produced this state of affairs, continue to exist, and will, it is to be feared, still continue and even increase, until the great body of the people themselves shall have learned to estimate the blessing of education at its true value. Not that I fail to appreciate the ability and devotedness to their work, of many of our female teachers: but the very great disproportion which their numbers bear to the whole body of teachers, is, I think, for obvious reasons, to be regretted, and to be avoided in future if possible. The very low salaries offered by parsimonious trustees are not sufficient inducements for young men, well educated and prepared to take a high stand in the teaching profession, to continue the work and make it the business of a life-time. At the present day, educated young men are not at a loss for remunerative and permanent employment in which the income greatly exceeds that of School Teaching; and it is not to be expected that three or