

an interest was taken in his labours, if each District would appoint a Committee of proprietors to visit the School, say monthly.

During the past year assessment has been adopted in three Districts in the Parish of Westfield, the respective sums of £35, £30, and £22 have been ordered to be raised, and although this is but a small advance for the County generally, yet it indicates a favourable change.

If the people could be induced to take an enlightened view of this question, and hold it to be the duty of a community to impart intelligence to all its members, in consideration of the temporal and moral blessings which flow from enlightenment, they might possibly dismiss their prejudices, and unite in one grand effort to improve the education of their children.

If gradually this result is obtained it is sufficiently gratifying. But the opinion is very strongly impressed upon me, that if we wait until taxation for the support of Schools is voluntarily and generally adopted by the people, we will waste much valuable time. Erroneous opinions are formed respecting it. The very term "tax" alarms the majority, and they wait not to enquire, but take it for granted that some large sum is to be exacted from them to benefit their neighbours. And meetings which have been called in many Districts in the County have failed of their object in consequence of the working of the law not having been properly understood, and its effects misrepresented—either designedly or from want of proper knowledge—by those who have opposed it.

Lecturing on the subject, and presenting statistical information, might indeed prepare the way for an Act by the Legislature for compulsory assessment, but that something of the kind is necessary to carry out a thorough system of Elementary Education, but one opinion seems, even now, to be entertained by those who have given the question their attentive consideration.

If Teachers were supported by assessment, boarding round would be eradicated, and they would be independent—as it is desirable they should be—of the petty disagreements which sometimes unfortunately arise between proprietors; and the latter would not be so likely to withdraw their support from the Schools for any trifling matter, for, as they would have to contribute towards the support of the School, they would identify themselves more intimately with it.

It would seem to be just—and an incentive to continue in the School service—if there should be a reward set before Teachers who might teach a length of time, say, an advance upon their allowance after a certain number of years. And again, it would seem to be proper to require new Teachers to teach a certain time before receiving full allowance, as a check upon those who, after receiving the advantages of the Training School, teach but six months in a year—gaining some little experience in teaching—then leave the service to be replaced, frequently, by new ones, inexperienced in teaching, and who have to learn the duties required of them.

The provision in the 20th Section of the School Act that "no greater sum than £130 for any half year shall be drawn from the Provincial Treasury for any one Parish," has proved in this County rather small, some large Parishes being divided into so many Districts. Were the amount increased to £150, instead of £130, it would meet the difficulty, and yet the *average* of £100 need not be increased, as the majority of the Parishes draw very considerably under the average.

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