

tion goes to the very antipodes of such a feeling, it being our long and well weighed opinion that the head of the educational department should even be a member of the Executive Government, with no other duties to attend to.* We would also invite the particular attention of the Municipal Councils of Upper Canada, as well as of Government, to the propriety of great discrimination in the selection of those important local officers,—well qualified *District Inspectors*, or *Superintendents*,—against whom also there existed at one time a considerable degree of prejudice† ; but that, once appointed, they

* It may be added, in proof of the conviction generally entertained in other countries, of the great utility of a general superintendent, that the most of the American States have such an officer ; and that even at the late installation of the corporation of the city of Boston, the Mayor, in delivering the annual address, recommended an application to the Legislature for the appointment of a superintendent of schools, and also for aid in the establishment of school libraries, and even for a compulsory enactment for sending children to school. And it has been forcibly remarked by an able British writer, that “ the first and most striking feature in the French and Prussian organization is the existence of a minister of public instruction, distinct from the other parts of the administration. The duties of this office belonged formerly, in both countries, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department : but a separation was made in Prussia by the law of 1819, and in France some time later ; and the result has proved the wisdom of the arrangement. The entire machinery is thus worked from a common centre, which contributing the first impulse, controls all the movements, and gives unity of action and character. The prime mover of the whole is the responsible minister of the Crown ; and in France he is one of the Cabinet ministers, and acts with the advice and assistance of a council of twelve.”

† This unreasonable prejudice has not been altogether confined to Canada, for in 1843 the Hon. S. Young, *Secretary of State*, and Superintendent of Schools of the State of New York, candidly admitted that he had come into office with a decided prepossession against county superintendents, and determined to abolish them ; but that after attending the Convention of County Superintendents, and possessing himself of a thorough acquaintance with the previous defects and present advantages of that system, he had arrived at the conclusion, that deputy superintendents, properly qualified for the discharge of their functions, and earnestly intent on elevating the condition of the Common Schools, can do much more to accomplish the desirable results than all the other officers connected with the system.