

The extent and degree of minuteness with which the inspection will be prosecuted, in respect to any, or all of the foregoing and kindred subjects, must, of course, depend on circumstances. But though these hints, as to a general outline of inspection, are applicable to School Visitors, as well as to School Superintendents; yet it is, of course, expected that the inspection of the District Superintendent will be more thorough and general than that of a Visitor.

It is scarcely necessary for me to say, that Teachers—especially the better class of them—deserve your sympathy and support. It sometimes happens that the best Teacher suffers most from some ignorant and prejudiced person, or persons, who, though unacquainted with school-teaching, and perhaps with even what is taught in the School, undertake to dictate and interfere with the Teacher, both as to his teaching and discipline. It is always easier to complain than to justify—to excite suspicions and prejudices than to remove them; and some parents are much more disposed to find fault with the Teacher than to blame the dullness, or idleness, or vice and neglected bringing-up of their own children. The real faults of such parents are thus imputed to the unfortunate Teacher, and he becomes their victim, if he does not renounce his own understanding, and experience, and perhaps authority. It should be understood that the Teacher—humble though his circumstances may be—is nevertheless legally authorized for his office—has his duties prescribed by law, and even the principles and methods of teaching—as recommended in the prefaces to the National School Books—but which interfere not with individual independence of mind and diversity of talent. The Teacher should, therefore, be maintained in the rights of his office, as well as in its obligations. This will always be for the public interests, as the well instructed part of the community will perceive. But the amount of ignorance and prejudice in some neighbourhoods is so large, that the intelligent Teacher needs all the support which can be given him. Then, on the other hand, public duty requires that no nuisance should be tolerated in the person of a Teacher.

Trustees may sometimes be opposed by such a mass of ignorant selfishness, as to need your decided support. An intelligent set of Trustees, who know the value of a good practical education, and are determined to secure its advantages to the rising youth of their School Section, are an invaluable blessing to a neighbourhood, and sometimes, by their example, to a whole District. Yet, it now and then happens, that they are opposed by party and selfish ignorance in all its forms. But, while such men are thus labouring gratuitously for the good of