

year as new teachers take charge of the schools, the same ground is gone over as was travelled the year previous, and parents wonder that their children make no greater improvement. Our school houses are another great evil; houses inconveniently furnished; in bad repair; windows broken; benches mutilated; desks rickety, &c., &c.

Persons commonly engage in this country rather from necessity than from choice. Hence few comparatively possess the requisite qualifications. Teachers are generally poorly remunerated; continue a short time only in one place. The best teachers are sometimes preceded and followed by the worst, so that any good that they may do cannot be seen or appreciated. Many of the Commissioners have an indifferent education and a worldly spirit. Hence they will select a teacher whom they can get at the cheapest rate, looking upon it as matter of certainty that he must be suitable if he has certificate of qualification from the board of public instruction. They will part with a good teacher who has given satisfaction, is a man of correct opinions and correct conduct, competency of experience as a teacher, in order to get an indifferent one at a cheaper rate. Although this is the case generally, there are some honourable exceptions.

This reminds me of an anecdote the Government Inspector related in my hearing. The settlers in the township of ——— being very desirous of a school teacher, applied to him for advice what they had better do. They had tried to engage a teacher, but he wanted so extravagant a salary. Well, asked the Inspector, how much did he ask? £15 per annum, was the reply. It was again asked, what was he to do for board? The prompt reply of the sturdy farmer was, "I offered to board him for £18 per annum."

With regard to education, such is the deplorable state of affairs in the "bush."

Now, Rev. Sir, my difficulties are before you. I have done what I could, and what little has been done has been blessed of the Lord. The fault may appear to be in the parents; there is doubtless too much apathy among them, but the crowning defect seems to be, "The poor ye have always with you,"—consequently a want of funds. These worn-out hills and rocky fields pour forth at best but a meagre crop into the hard hand of the laborer. Therefore, the pecuniary embarrassment and endless litigation with which many here are troubled, have an injurious effect. How long this state of things is to last no one can tell. It has already continued until every one is sick of hearing of suits and sales.

After a full survey of all our varied wants, it is difficult for me to answer the question, What is best to be done?

"In the multitude of counsellors there is safety," therefore I shall anxiously await the decision of your committee.