

warded to this Department a copy of their letter of 23rd inst., which they served upon you, notifying you to leave their service on 30th inst., for gross neglect of duty. They charge you with leaving your post of duty on 16th ult., without seeking or obtaining their permission, and absenting yourself for a period of seven teaching days, during which time your department was closed except for two days, when it was occupied by an unauthorized substitute. In your letter to me of 23rd inst., acknowledging the receipt of the Trustees' notification, you admit the charges, but explain the reason of your absence—serious illness in your family at home. I regret very much that you did not ask the Trustees' permission to absent yourself. Had you done so I have no doubt that under the circumstances it would have been granted, and thus you would have been saved the humiliation of a dismissal. As they have chosen to dismiss you for reasons which can not be regarded in any other light than as "gross neglect of duty"—sec. 73 (3), Manual of Schools Act, and Reg. 22 (12)—and as you have yourself admitted the charges, there is no other course left me than to sanction the dismissal. I am, Yours truly,

[Signed] Wm. Crockett, Chief Supt. Education.

MISS McLEAN'S ANSWER.

NEWCASTLE, April 28th, 1885.

*The Chief Superintendent of Education.*

DEAR SIR: Pardon me for again, and for the last time, trespassing upon your valuable time, but your letter received this morning is my excuse. I admit that I left my school in the hands of a competent substitute. I do not admit the charge against me, as I was dismissed six days before I went away. The only humiliation I feel in the matter is that I have ever had any dealings with such men. I sever connections with them with great pleasure.

Yours, etc.,

[Signed] A. M. McLEAN.

We believe there is not a ratepayer in Newcastle who will endorse the action of the Trustees in thus making capital out of the misfortune of this young lady. She would indeed have been guilty of "gross neglect of duty" had she not attended the summons to the sick bed of a near and dear relative, and the Superintendent's regret that she had not asked permission of the Trustees to leave is quite unnecessary, for from Miss McLean's experience of those gentlemen she well knew they would only be too glad of a pretext for giving her annoyance, and she would have lost valuable time for nothing. So, after finding their first notice of dismissal was illegal, the Trustees took an unmanly advantage of the natural desire of Miss McLean to be present with her apparently dying relative, and because she went without consulting them, dismissed her "for gross neg-