

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION,

Upper  Canada.

Vol. XV.

TORONTO: JULY, 1862.

No. 7.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

	PAGE
I. MEASURES AFFECTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OF UPPER CANADA:	
—Memorandum on the Draft of Bill for the further Promotion of Education in Cities and Towns—Memorandum, with Draft of Bill to restore certain rights to Separate Schools—Bills relating to Roman Catholic Separate Schools—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Mr. Hillyard Cameron to Mr. Scott's Bill in relation to Separate Schools in Upper Canada.....	97
Compulsory Education of Children.....	106
The Massachusetts Common School Act.....	106
Truancy in the Boston Schools.....	106
A London Ragged School.....	108
II. PAPERS ON PRACTICAL EDUCATION—1. Studies for Summer	
109	
III. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES—No. 21. William Burns Lindsay, Esq. No. 22. The Very Rev. Louis Jacques Casault, V.G.	
109	
IV. MISCELLANEOUS—1. A Canadian National Song. 2. Opening of the Great Exhibition	
110	
V. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE—Annual Examination of the Model School, Toronto—Wesleyan Female College—Upper Canada College Examination—St. Joseph's College, Ottawa—County of Brant Teachers' Convention—The School Examinations—Whitby Grammar School—Competition of the Blenheim Common Schools—Union School, London—Simcoe Union School	
111	
ADVERTISEMENTS	112

MEASURES AFFECTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OF UPPER CANADA.

From the discussions which have recently taken place, both in one of our Ecclesiastical Synods and in the public newspapers, it is obvious that the character and objects of certain measures which have been lately submitted to the Government, affecting our National School System of Education, have been, in a great measure, misunderstood. In order to remove this misapprehension in some degree, we publish in this number of the *Journal of Education* several documents on the subject. The importance of the measures themselves, and the desire which has been felt in regard to them, is the chief reason for this departure from our usual practice of not admitting into the pages of the *Journal* any thing controversial in its character. Into the discussion of the subject, however, it is not our province in this place to enter. But we simply content ourselves with publishing the official documents themselves, for the information of our readers.

The first measure is designed to provide facilities for Supplementary Common Schools for vagrant children in the cities and towns of Upper Canada, through the agency of any benevolent society, association, or religious congregation in those places. In a recent published letter of the Chief Superintendent of Education, he thus refers to the necessity of this measure:—

“There is one class, and unfortunately an increasing class, of the population of cities and towns, which is without the sphere of any influence, secular or religious, which has yet been exercised for the education of their children. These are the children, (and not the children of common schools) that

swell the calendars of juvenile crime in cities and towns. The problem is, what means can be employed to dry up this fountain of idleness and crime, and make these now poor and neglected youth useful members of society? The influence of even our excellent common free schools has not reached them. Nay, in the presence of these noble schools the number of unschooled vagrant children increases—at least in the city of Toronto. In 1860, during an official tour of Upper Canada, I submitted the question in various counties for public consideration, as to whether the municipalities should not be invested with power to make regulations for educational purposes in regard to vagrant children between the ages of 7 and 14 years, not attending any school, and not engaged in any lawful employment. * * * * * The law requires the Chief Superintendent not only ‘to collect and diffuse among the people of Upper Canada useful information on the subject of education generally,’ but to submit to the Government, ‘such statements and suggestions for improving the common schools and common school laws, and promoting education, as he may deem useful and expedient.’

“In discharging, to the best of my judgment and ability, the duty thus imposed upon me by law, I submitted in March last to the favorable consideration of the Government, the following memorandum and draft of bill, hoping that they might be printed for the consideration of the Upper Canada members, representing cities and towns, and if approved, be taken up either during the recent or next session of Parliament. This memorandum * * * I respectfully commend to the best judgment and feelings of the reader as discussing a subject which * * * has for its object the removal of evils which deprive our country of hundreds and thousands of useful citizens, and inflict serious evils upon our cities and towns.”

The other measure submitted to the Government by the Chief Superintendent of Education, relates to Roman Catholic Separate Schools in Upper Canada, and is fully described in the memorandum prefixed to it.

We also insert a third measure relating to Roman Catholic Separate Schools, in the shape of a threefold bill, originally introduced into the Legislature by a private Member of Parliament,—together with the Hon. Mr. Cameron's amendments to it.

Taken in connection with the explanatory headings attached to each of the three documents, they will be found to explain themselves.