

have access to no other place of instruction than the Common School; and we know how powerful is the influence of the place and its appendages upon the health, tone of study, proficiency, habits, tastes and feelings of the young population, who will soon constitute the people of the land, and, as such, determine to a great extent the character of its Institutions, and even of its History, the importance of School Architecture itself can scarcely be overrated, and, especially, when the most essential improvement can be made in it, with very little additional expense. But, on this subject, I propose to prepare a separate and special Report.

IX. NO COMMON SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

I have no information of the existence of a single Common School Library in Upper Canada; yet such an institution is a treasury of useful knowledge,—a centre and source of intellectual light and entertainment to any neighbourhood, and can be successively, and equally, enjoyed by all, at the expense of a few shillings to each of the inhabitants. A family may thus procure the perusal of the whole of an appropriate and useful Library for five shillings!

X. COMMON SCHOOL FUNDS.—ENCOURAGING FACTS.

The only Funds at present available for Common School purposes in Upper Canada arise from the Annual grant of the Legislature and the District Council Assessments, and the local Trustee Rate-Bills on Parents. The moiety of the Legislative grant of £50,000 paid to Upper Canada is £21,000 per annum, while £29,000 per annum has been paid to Lower Canada; making the sum of £50,000 per annum granted by the Legislature in aid of Common Schools throughout the United Province of Canada. It is pleasing to observe that the amount of local contributions in support of Common Schools in Upper Canada has steadily increased from year to year. In the year 1842 there was paid by local contributions, (independent of the Legislative grant), for the salaries of Common School Teachers in Upper Canada, £21,500; in 1844, (no Returns being made in 1843), there was paid by local contributions alone £30,714; and, in 1845, the sum of £50,514,—being an increase of £19,800 on the local contributions of 1844,—an increase of more than one-third, in one year, by the voluntary impositions of the people themselves. These sums do not include the salaries of District and Township Superintendents of Schools, nor the amounts expended in the erection and furnishing of School Houses. These facts are very encouraging, and warrant the hope that, with the proper assistance as to a general system of School Management and instruction, all the youth of Canada will soon be blessed with the means of a good Common School Education.

As to the accounts of the manner in which the School Funds have, in all cases, been expended, I regret to have it to say that it is not as satisfactory as could be wished, or as the new School Act provides for, after the expiration of the current year. Each District Superintendent of Schools is obliged to furnish vouchers to the Inspector-General of the faithful expenditure of the money placed in his hands for one year, before he can draw the apportionment of School money for his Municipal District the year ensuing. But it is otherwise with the School Superintendents in Townships. They are accustomed to certify to the District Superintendents of Schools what moneys they have received and expended; and I am informed that, in some instances at least, they account to the District Council. But every District Superintendent's Annual Report contains a column of "Amounts reported to be in the hands of Township Superintendents." These "Amounts" average in each District from £30 to upwards of £900. The accompanying Statistical Reports will show that, at the end of the year 1845, there was, in the hands of the several Township Superintendents of Schools in Upper Canada, the large sum of £5,826.14s.6d. How these "balances" have been expended, from year to year, since the enactment of the law of 1843, is unknown at the Education Office for Upper Canada. The "balance in the hands of Township Superintendents of Schools" is duly reported by the

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