

the following year." The fifth clause of the 35th section, also enacts "That it shall be the *duty* of the Chief Superintendent to see that *all moneys* apportioned by him be applied to the objects for which they were granted;" and the 45th section provides "That no part of the salaries of local superintendents of schools, nor of any person employed, or expenses incurred [treasurer's fees, &c. &c.] in the execution of this Act, shall be paid out of the school fund."

In order to afford the Educational Department the strongest evidence that the provisions from the law quoted above have been faithfully complied with, it is made the *duty* of each county council (5th clause, 27th section,) "to appoint annually, or oftener, auditors, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the county treasurer and other officers to whom school moneys shall have been intrusted, and report to such council; and the county clerk shall transmit to the Chief Superintendent, on or before the first day of March in each year, a certified copy of the abstract of such report," &c. The law also requires the county council to take every precaution, and to exact security from each sub-treasurer entrusted with school moneys, that the entire of the school fund shall be strictly applied to the objects contemplated by the legislature. Another provision of the law imposes the same duties upon the councils of cities, towns and villages.

It must be apparent to every one that unless these local officers strictly perform their duty in accounting for the expenditure of the school fund, the Chief Superintendent cannot, in terms of the sections of the act quoted, pay an apportionment which the law expressly declares to be forfeited, and authorises him to deduct it. He can only pay an amount equal to that which has been accounted for as raised and expended according to law the preceding year.

It has been urged, that in giving effect to the law, the school teachers of a county should not be made to suffer for the neglect of the local school officers. True, as a question of personal consideration for, and sympathy with, a valuable class of public officers; but it should be borne in mind that if law were left dependent for its impartial administration upon the ever varying current of our feelings, it would soon degenerate into caprice. The grant is made to the county upon certain conditions prescribed by the legislature, and voluntarily accepted by the county. If, therefore, these conditions are not complied with on the part of the council, the department, acting on behalf of the legislature, cannot of course continue the grant until the conditions of receiving it are complied with.

But in order to prevent the teachers from suffering for any neglect on the part of the school officers of their county, the Chief Superintendent has invariably given *one year's notice* of any deduction which he may be compelled to make, in order to give the authorities of the county concerned an opportunity of completing their financial returns to the department. Further than this even departmental discretion cannot permit him to go, and less than this would not be sufficient to give effect to the salutary and excellent financial provisions of the school law.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF THE SCHOOL GRANT AMONG SCHOOL SECTIONS.

Several local superintendents and others having applied to the Educational Department to know if any modification would be made in the instructions issued by the Chief Superintendent in regard to the distribution of the school fund among the

school sections of a township, according to the average attendance of pupils. It has been instanced that a school which has been kept open for six months in a feeble section, thinly inhabited, is placed in a disadvantageous position as compared with a school kept open for the same period in a populous section the amounts of whose rate-bill or school assessment would enable the trustees to sustain their school much more efficiently, and at a less cost from each inhabitant. The reply sent has been as follows:

"It does not always follow that because two schools are kept open the same length of time that the same salary is paid to each teacher. As a general rule, the larger the school and the more populous the section, the higher the qualifications required, and the larger the salary paid to the teacher. Besides, the policy of this department has been to discourage small and feeble school sections so as to induce them to merge themselves into the larger school divisions. To pay each section according to its works is but fair and equitable. I may remark, however, that with a view to meet such cases as you describe and not to interfere with the just principle of distribution authorised by law, the first clause of the 27th section of the School Act of 1850, especially authorises each county council, in addition to the sum which it raises as an equivalent to the Legislative School Grant, 'to increase the county school fund at its discretion, so as to give special or additional aid to new or needy school sections, upon the recommendation of one or more local superintendents.'"

#### MANUALS FOR GRAMMAR AND COMMON SCHOOL OFFICERS.

A manual for the use of grammar and common school officers in cities, towns and villages, and also one for the use of rural trustees, is in course of preparation by this department, and will be distributed as soon as possible. These manuals will contain all the provisions of the law, with the general rules and regulations, list of text-books, &c., which are now in force.

#### THE SYDENHAM CRYSTAL PALACE.

The Sydenham Crystal Palace may justly take the first rank among the public exhibitions whose object is to combine recreation and instruction.

As a place of recreation, it is without a rival. There is no other place of public resort, with which we are acquainted, that affords so much innocent enjoyment. The visitor walks through the park attached to it, and gazes, now on the fairy-like structure, which rises from the brow of the hill into the clear blue sky, now on the magnificent landscape which stretches away in the opposite direction as far as the eye can reach, or on the beautiful park itself, which at every turn presents some new and agreeable surprise; or he resigns himself to the general feeling of enjoyment which, as a delightful spell, is thrown over his faculties by the genius of the scene. And if he enters the palace, the view that meets his gaze is even more enchanting. The vast and graceful proportions of the building itself; the flood of light, which enters its walls of transparent crystal, and, mingling with the harmonious colors of its light and airy columns, bathes the whole of the interior in the most lovely rainbow hues; the numbers of beautiful and striking forms which throng the view; the rich products of human skill and ingenuity scattered here and there; and the gorgeous displays of beautiful flowers and elegant plants in all directions: all this and much more, conspires to form a spectacle of unequalled splendor and brilliancy. And when the visitor has gazed long enough at the *tout ensemble*, he turns his attention to the details, and finds in them an inexhaustible supply of matter to interest and amuse him. While he threads his way in delighted admiration among these varied objects, the sound of music suddenly sweeps through the long lines of the fairy fabric, rising wave upon wave with a tumultuous swell, until it fills the entire space, and makes it ring in every part with soul-stirring or cheerful strains. He now involuntarily gazes on the whole scene again: the music seems to harmonize with it, and to interpret it to his feelings; the impression, which it had already produced on his mind, is heightened in a tenfold degree; he sees that it is thronged by thousands of delighted specta-