

to Hamilton, one pound. Making in all fourteen pounds and seventeen shillings.

Having thus, with some loss to the District, changed these debentures into money, another question arose for consideration; viz. Whether the loss which had been sustained by the School Fund as above explained, should be deducted from the amounts to be paid to the several Teachers, or whether to assume the entire responsibility myself, trusting to the District Council alone for indemnification. Among the reasons which finally induced me to decide on the latter course, I beg to mention the following :

1st.—It seemed to me exceedingly unjust and cruel that a deficiency in a public fund in which the whole District has almost an equal interest, should be required to be made up by one class, which, in comparison to the rest, is neither numerous nor wealthy. Indeed school Teachers, as a general rule, are the least able, of any portion of the community, to suffer such a loss. A large number of them if not a majority of the whole, receive no money for their services whatever, besides what they receive from this source. Such must feel the loss, even of a few shillings very severely.

And 2d., I could not bring myself to believe that I was legally authorised to make any such demand upon the Teachers. The Act 9 Victoria Cap. 20, Sec. 13 requires the District Superintendent, "As soon as he shall receive from the District Clerk a notification of the amount of money required by the District Council, to be raised by tax, to add that amount to the Government Apportionment, and apportion the said fund among the several School sections entitled to receive the same." But neither the act above recited nor any other, makes provisions for any deduction from these apportionments when once they are made and declared. I have therefore considered that the only right course was to pay in full, all the orders presented, which I have done accordingly. About thirty Teachers remain to be paid, all of whom are expected to apply during the present month, and I trust the Council will supply me with the means of liquidating all their just claims.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

I am strongly impressed with the opinion that it is in the power of Your Honorable Council to confer a very important benefit upon our Schools at comparatively a trifling cost, in the matter of supplying uniform text Books. An almost endless variety in the books intended for the same classes of pupils, at present exists in very many of our Schools. That this state of things interferes materially with their efficiency, it will not require a word to prove. It is not uncommon to find a dozen pupils, nearly of the same age and just about equal in their attainments, arranged in three or four classes instead of one. The only reason for this unnatural and inconvenient arrangement is, that they happen to be furnished by their parents with so many different sorts of books. Almost no more time is required for the reading or recitation exercises of a class of ten or twelve members than for one of half or one fourth that number. Hence the time of the school is actually lost in nearly the same proportion as the varieties of text books are multiplied: besides rendering the instruction