

PART II.

Individual efforts—their necessity—extent and fruits of them in Germany.

5th. *Individual Efforts.*—There is so much in the very nature of education that is voluntary, both in its pursuit by an individual, and in its advancement as a system, that without efforts beyond those which should or could be enjoyed by statutes, its interests can be advanced to but a very limited extent in any community. It is erroneous to suppose that the high state of education in Germany is entirely owing to the provisions of the laws and the exertions of the Civil Authorities. The spontaneous efforts of individuals and associations have not, to say the least, been less efficient agents in this great work, than the interference of the State; and these private efforts have on several occasions, been the originators of the most important laws and measures of Government. It is to these efforts that Germany owes its unrivalled series of School and educational books—the existence and wide circulation of upwards of thirty periodical School publications—and the periodical conferences of School Inspectors and Teachers in all the German States. The intercourse of Teachers and Educators in all parts of Germany, is constant and intimate—to an extent that can be scarcely conceived by a stranger. Thus the improvements and views of each become the property of all—the educational instructors of the people constitute an extensive and most influential fraternity, and the whole public mind is elevated and animated to a standard of sentiment and practice conformable to a high state of national civilization.

Necessity of them in this Province.

Corresponding efforts in this Province are indispensable to the realization of any patriotic hopes as to our system of public instruction. The efficiency of some of the provisions of the School Law is wholly depending upon voluntary efforts. This is