

they may judge expedient, and as may be authorised according to law, for the establishment, safe keeping and proper management of a School Library, whenever provision shall have been made and carried into effect for the establishment of School Libraries."

2. I beg to call your particular attention to the accompanying Circular to Township Councils, and to the regulations for the establishment of public School Libraries, and also to the catalogue of books for these Libraries. In the circular and regulations, in connexion with the above cited provisions of the School Law, you will not fail to observe the responsible duties which devolve upon you in giving effect to this new department of our system of public instruction; and I trust your own feelings will fully respond to those duties and to the public expectations and interests in this vitally important work. This first catalogue of Library Books shews the treasures of various and useful knowledge, which with your coöperation and that of the Township Municipalities, may be made accessible to all the inhabitants and youth of Upper Canada.

3. I have only too add, that if any Township Council declines to act in the establishment of Public School Libraries, I shall be happy to hear from the Trustees of individual School Sections in such Township, in the terms of my Circular to Township Councils.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
E. RYERSON.

EDUCATION OFFICE,
Toronto, 3rd August, 1853.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES FOR UPPER CANADA.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH BOOKS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE LIBRARIES.

(Extracted from the Minutes of the Council of Public Instruction
for Upper Canada.)

The Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada deems it proper to state its principles of proceeding in performing the important and responsible task of selecting books for these Public School Libraries.

1. The Council regards it as imperative, that no works of a licentious, vicious, or immoral tendency, and no works hostile to the Christian Religion, should be admitted into the Libraries.

2. Nor is it, in the opinion of the Council, compatible with the objects of the public School Libraries, to introduce into them controversial works on Theology, or works of denominational controversy; although it would not be desirable to exclude all historical and other works in which such topics are referred to and discussed, and it is desirable to include a selection of suitable works on the evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion.

3. In regard to books on ecclesiastial history, the Council agrees in a selection from the most approved works on each side.

4. With these exceptions, and within these limitations, it is the opinion of the Council that as wide a selection as possible should be made of useful and entertaining books of permanent value, adapted to popular reading in the various departments of human knowledge—leaving each Municipality to consult its own taste and exercise its own discretion in selecting books from the general catalogue.

5. The including of any books in the general Catalogue, is not to be understood as the expression of any opinion by the Council in regard to any sentiments inculcated or combatted in such books; but merely as an acquiescence on the part of the Council in the purchase of such books by any Municipality, should it think proper to do so.

6. The general catalogue of books for public School Libraries may be modified and enlarged from year to year, as circumstances may suggest, and as suitable new works of value may appear.

REGULATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES,

Adopted on the 2nd of August, 1853.

THE Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada, as authorised by the 38th section of the School Act of 1850, make the following regulations for the establishment and management of Public School Libraries:—

I. There may be School Section Libraries, or Township Libraries, as each Township Municipality shall prefer. In case of the establishment of a Township Library, the Township Council may either cause the books to be deposited in one place, or recognise each School Section within its jurisdiction as a branch of the Township Library Corporation, and cause the Library to be divided into parts or sections, and allow each of these parts or sections of the Library to be circulated in succession in each School Section.

II. Each Township Library shall be under the management of the Township Corporation; and each Branch or School Section Library shall be under the management of the School Section Corporation. The Township Council shall appoint or remove the Librarian for the Township; and each Trustee Corporation shall appoint or remove the Librarian for the School Section, as already provided by the seventeenth clause of the twelfth section of the School Act of 1850.

III. Each Township Council and each School Section Corporation receiving Library books, must provide a proper case for the books, with a lock and key; and must cause the case and books to be kept in some safe place and repaired when injured; and must also provide sufficient wrapping paper to cover the books, and writing paper to enable the Librarian to keep minutes of the delivery and return of books, and write the needful notes or letters. The Members of the Township and School Section Corporations are responsible for the security and preservation of the books in their charge.

IV. When any books are taken in charge by the Librarian, he is to make out a full and complete catalogue of them; and at the foot of each catalogue, the Librarian is to sign a receipt to the following effect:—

"I, A. B., do hereby acknowledge that the books specified in the preceding catalogue have been delivered to me by the Municipal Council of the Township of—, or (as the case may be,) by the Trustees of School Section No.—, in the Township of—, to be carefully kept by me as their Librarian, for the use of the inhabitants within their jurisdiction, according to the regulations prescribed by authority of the Statute, for the management of Public School Libraries, to be accounted for by me according to said regulations, to said Council, (or Trustees, as the case may be,) and to be delivered to my successor in office. Dated, &c." Such catalogue, with the Librarian's receipt,