

Male and Female Students in the Normal School, Doctor Ryerson defended these Regulations in a Letter to the Editor. He said:—

1. The Regulations respecting the intercourse of Male and Female Students in the Normal School are not new, as you represent, but which have existed, and that most beneficially, since the first day that Female Students were admitted to the Normal School—more than five years ago;—Regulations, which are but a response to the repeatedly expressed wishes of anxious Parents and friends;—Regulations, which are essential to the protection and welfare of young and unprotected Females, separated, in most instances, for the first time in their lives, from Parents and acquaintances, placed in new circumstances in a strange City, and peculiarly exposed to intrusions and dangers; Regulations, which are a proper check upon the thoughtless and ill-disposed, if there be any such, which are due to the public by whom so large a sum of money has been and is expended in the establishment and support of an Institution with a view to assist and encourage meritorious young persons to employ five, or ten, months, without distraction, to become qualified for a profession of respectability and usefulness to the whole Country.

2. I observe it is stated in your Paper that young Ladies of the Normal School removed the copy of the Regulations suspended in their Waiting Room,—thus representing them as anxious for unrestricted intercourse with the young men . . . I would say, in reply, that the Regulations suspended in the Ladies Waiting Room has never been disturbed, much less removed, by any young Lady connected with the Normal School, or any other person. On the contrary I believe that the great majority, if not all of the young Ladies are thankful for the relief and advantage that such Regulations afford them, during the few months of their training as Teachers.

3. I think I feel as much interested in the happiness and interests of the young persons attending the Normal School as those who, without any of my responsibility, or care, . . . object to these Regulations, and who I suspect would not be the last to assail the Authorities of the Normal School for laxity of discipline, should . . . [precaution against promiscuous intercourse of the Male and Female Students not have been taken.] I wish to impose no needless restraint. I do by the young people at the Normal School as I would wish to be done by, and to have done to mine, in like circumstances. On each of them leaving the Institution for their destined work of responsibility and usefulness, I wish to be able, in connection with the Masters of the Normal School not only to respect and confide in them ourselves, but to recommend them to the respect and implicit confidence of all parents having children to be instructed,—that they should not only be above reproach, but above suspicion. Such, I believe, . . . the Teachers who have, from time to time, gone out from the Normal School, have proved themselves to be, and to that result, I am persuaded, the very Regulations which you arraign have not a little contributed.

4. It is true, that these Regulations have heretofore been left to the Head Master, at the commencement of each Session, to state and explain; but, as some of the parties concerned pleaded, during the former part of the present Session, an imperfect, or erroneous, understanding of them the Council of Public Instruction thought it advisable to have them written out, and a copy of them suspended in each of the Waiting Rooms of the Normal School, . . .

TORONTO, 13th August, 1853.

EGERTON RYERSON.

CHAPTER V.

REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LIBRARY REGULATIONS, AND REQUEST FOR THE BALANCE OF THE LIBRARY GRANT.

1. LETTER TO THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, ENCLOSING THE LIBRARY REGULATIONS AND ASKING FOR THE BALANCE OF THE LIBRARY GRANT.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH BOOKS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

1. I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of His Excellency, the Governor General, a Copy of the Regulations which have been adopted, and of the Catalogue of Books which have been approved by the Council of Public Instruction, for Public School Libraries in Upper Canada.*

* This Catalogue, extending to 68 quarto pages, was published in the *Journal of Education for Upper Canada* of January, February, March and April, 1853.