

and similar ones throughout the Province, were held in presence of Messrs. Robertson and Hind, masters of the Provincial Normal School, but as yet no further arrangements have been made, nor has any defined line of action been promulgated from the education office, although the names of several teachers were enrolled, and they were informed by Mr. Robertson that they might consider themselves members of an institute. It is perhaps not out of place to mention that several teachers attended that meeting under great disadvantages to themselves, and without any apparent benefit; besides, the tour of the Normal School masters left the Provincial school fund less by nearly £300, including £142 for travelling expenses, as may be seen by referring to the school report of 1850."

The foregoing is what I alluded to; and let the public hear your equivocating elucidation of it. It need not be said that you spoke in a very approving tone of the services of Messrs. Robertson and Hind, and expressed a surprise that any teacher should have experienced disadvantage in attending their lectures. I can see no difficulty in discerning why common school teachers, who are, generally speaking, persons of very limited means, should feel disappointment and dissatisfaction, considering the way they had been treated. You stated, in a circular, dated the 26th August, 1850, that Messrs. Robertson and Hind would hold a teachers' institute in London on the 14th and 15th June, 1850. But did they fulfil your published directions? No, sir, they stopped on the 14th in London, and left early on the morning of the 15th for, I believe, Chatham. Had teachers who came a distance of twenty or thirty miles, to be present the second day, much reason to be dissatisfied when they found themselves disappointed? There has been in the County of Middlesex during nearly three years a teacher's association in existence, and I, as Secretary of that respectable and intelligent body, have reason to know something of the opinions of the County of Middlesex on this matter. I aver, then, that, to them, the proceedings resulting from your circular of the above date, have been very dissatisfactory. It is utterly unlikely that the teachers to whom I allude can feel at all satisfied when they consider the results. You proposed then to form teachers' institutes, and you actually pretended to issue "some of the regulations which should govern the proceedings of these teacher's institutes." I quote your own words from your annual report for 1849, although I had not the honour, like others, of receiving it, "with the compliments of the author." I had the higher honour of obtaining it and the subsequent ones from members of the Legislature. In the year 1853, you made a Provincial tour, to receive suggestions about forming such institutes. You stated that the latter part of my query was false. It is a hard word to use, and I think you might have said erroneous instead. However, let the public see the falsity, as far as it goes, and then judge. At first I will refer them to page 56 of the report for 1849, and it may there be seen that the masters of the Normal School were engaged in the tour and its duties seventy-nine days or more. Presuming that their annual salaries then did in the aggregate amount to £600, did they not receive, for the term spent perambulating Canada, at least the 16th-734 part of £600, or £121, or upwards; this added to the travelling expenses of the two masters of the Normal School, in holding preliminary teachers' institutes in the several Counties of Upper Canada, which I find to be in the report for 1850—in the sum of £142, makes a sum of £273, or upwards. But you say this was not taken from the Provincial school fund, because the Council of Public Instruction paid it out of the Normal School grant. Now, see the quibble. I maintain the Normal School grant is public money, granted by the parliament for the promotion of common school education; and although I do not mean to say that you had not the power of setting aside, for the specific purpose of affording Messrs. Robertson and Hind a pleasant and professional tour through the Province, any sum you thought proper; still, you had no right to brand my statement as false, when it was true in the purport which it was intended to convey. Although I was literally in error in the use of the words Provincial school fund, it will be seen perfectly clear that my statement was not entitled to the harsh term you used. I must bring this to a close, before having sufficient time or opportunity to be more explicit, and it is my earnest hope that you will give me the credit of at least returning you the compliments you bestowed upon me, not, however, in your frowning, sneering style of explanation, but in that warm, off-handed manner, characteristic of my country and race. Should you fulfil your intention of visiting the legislative halls of the Province, for the purpose of giving your