

basis, accuse the Department of Education of "cooking the Returns."

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRANCIS J. TAYLOR,
Chief Clerk, Education Department.

EDUCATION OFFICE,
18th May, 1881.

Mr. Taylor's explanation of the discrepancy between the amount obtained by multiplying the average salary by the total number of teachers, and that of the actual payments, is not so satisfactory as we would like to see it. As the arrears due at the end of the year would largely counterbalance the payments of arrears for the previous year, we may fairly omit any consideration of this item.

There is, then, a discrepancy of \$90,584 to be accounted for by the fact that some schools are kept open, say for only six months. If the Teacher's salary in each of these was \$500, the actual payment to him was only \$250, and while he would be reported as having \$500 in the table of average salaries, he would appear in the statement of actual payments as getting only \$250. The remaining \$250 therefore would go to account for

the above discrepancy. Now, 90,584 divided by 250 gives 362 as the number of schools in the Province that in 1879 were kept open only half the year. But, if we take, not \$500, but \$314, which was the average salary for the Province and which is therefore a fairer estimate, we find by dividing the half of it, or 157, into 90,584, that 577 schools, or about eleven per cent. of all those in the country, were closed for half the year. This seems a large number. Doubtless, however, there are other disturbing influences to account for the discrepancy which Mr. Taylor has not named. We are glad that he is able even thus far to justify his figures, and we shall be still more glad if he can explain the other errors we pointed out, such as that of the average attendance in certain districts.

We can assure Mr. Taylor that we have a high appreciation of the labour he expends in preparing these tables for the Minister, and it must surely be some satisfaction to himself to note that one critic at least is not content to dish them up as he finds them, but tries with considerable labour to make an intelligent analysis of them for the information of the readers of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

THE average salary of rural schoolmasters in England and Wales is £118 14s. 3d., and of schoolmistresses, £71 2s. 2d. Out of 14,651 mistresses upwards of 5,000 are provided with furnished houses, and out of 11,595 masters a still larger number are similarly accommodated.

If rural school trustees in Ontario could only see far enough ahead to provide a cottage and garden for their teachers, convenient to the school, an immense stride would be made towards the improvement of our educational status. At present, the teacher has too often to put up with some rickety old dwelling that a farmer has forsaken years ago for

a new brick or stone mansion. Sometimes, indeed, no house can be found at all. There is thus hardly any inducement for a man to remain in the profession after he is married. We have heard of teachers having to walk two and even three miles to and from school daily, owing to the want of a habitable residence at a less distance. In such instances, what need trustees expect but change, change, change? The law distinctly provides for the building of teachers' residences, precisely as it does for school-houses, and nothing but short-sightedness has prevented their erection in the past, as we are sorely afraid it will continue to do for a long time to come.