

## GRAMMAR.

The author of the grammar recommended is Mr. W. S. Clark, principal of one of the flourishing academies of New-York. One great merit of this grammar is, that it cannot be taught without the use of the blackboard.

## RHETORICAL READER.

Parker's Rhetorical Reader deserves a place in all our schools. The introduction is full of sound sense and practical knowledge, and the principles of good reading, as unfolded by the author, when rightly apprehended by the teacher, cannot fail to secure a supervision of this most invaluable part of a good education, so exceedingly desirable in many schools. I do not deem it necessary to specify, further, the books contained in the list recommended, though much might be said of each one of the most important books on the Superintendent's list.

Having replied to your inquiries. I have only to remark in conclusion, that the duty of selecting a proper list of books has an intimate connection with important public interests—the great interests of common school education. If the public sustain the Superintendent in the recommendation he has made in compliance with the requirements of the law, our schools will soon feel the influence of a common system of instruction, and a check will be put to the efforts which have been made, and are now making, from abroad, to introduce into our schools and system of public instruction, the numerous works which daily come from the press. A uniform system, organized on a permanent basis, will then take the place of the confusion which now prevails, and teachers, and scholars, and parents, and those having charge of the interests of education, will act in concert with each other in carrying forward what we all have so much at heart—the intellectual and moral improvement of the youth of our State.

Respectfully and truly yours, &c.,

GEORGE DUFFIELD,

Pastor of the 1st Pres. Church, Detroit.

I fully concur in the views expressed in the letter of the Rev. Dr. Duffield. I had carefully examined all the works to which he refers with one exception, and think they are the best that can be introduced into our schools. They form a complete system, and as such, I hope they will be received and used by all our teachers.

SAMUEL A. MCCOSKRY,  
Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church  
in the Diocese of Michigan.

I concur in the foregoing views and opinions expressed by Dr. Duffield and Bishop McCoskry.

E. FARNSWORTH,  
(Regent of the University of Michigan.)

I concur fully in the views expressed above, regarding the merits of the elementary works specified by the Rev. Dr. Duffield, and generally of the list recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. My opinion of the importance of uniformity in school books is such, that if I did not entirely coincide in the opinion of these gentlemen, I should deem it my duty to lay aside any special predilections I might have for others, in order to do what little there might be in my power to sustain the public authorities in their efforts to accomplish so desirable an object.

ZINTA FITCHER,  
[Regent of the University of Michigan.]

I concur very fully in the general views expressed by Dr. Duffield, Bishop McCoskry, Chancellor Farnsworth, and Dr. Fitcher. With the works of Prof. Davies I am familiar; and have no hesitation in recommending their introduction in the schools of this State, as the best system heretofore offered to the public.

CHARLES W. WHIPPLE,  
Chief Justice of Michigan.

I fully concur with the recommendation of Bishop McCoskry of the books presented by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, for the use of all schools throughout the State. The acknowledged superiority of the more important books on this list as set forth by Dr. Duffield in worthy of the special consideration of all teachers and all friends of education, who desire to see permanently in our education system an uniformity in instruction. I trust the time is not far distant when this desirable result will be realized.

F. H. CUMING,  
Rector of St. Mark's Church, Grand Rapids.

Detroit, May 17, 1850.

Rev. SAMUEL NEWBURY,

Dear Sir,—After a patient examination of the books recommended by our Superintendent for adoption in our schools, I cordially concur in the views expressed by Dr. Duffield. They seem to me almost without exception, to possess merits sufficient to justify the selection and entitle them to universal use in our common schools, and I trust the choice of our Superintendent will be ratified by the people in the uniform adoption of these works.

Very respectfully,

H. D. KITCHEL,  
Pastor of the 1st Con. Church, Detroit.

[From the Faculty of the University of Michigan.]

University of Michigan, May 17, 1850.

We, the undersigned, severally fully concur with Bishop McCoskry, Dr. Fitcher, and others, in reference to the views expressed by the Rev. Dr. Duffield with regard to the comparative merits of the books specified in the above letter; and in general as to the list of text books recommended by the Superintendent. As a multiplicity of books issued daily from the press, is constantly urged upon our schools from abroad, we deem it essential to the permanency and prosperity of our system of public instruction, to secure uniformity in text books throughout the State, and we therefore approve the course adopted by the Superintendent—the recommendation of a single set of books on each elementary branch of education instead of inserting upon the list various authors upon the same subject.

G. P. WILLIAMS, Prof. Math. and Nat. Phil.  
ANDREW TENBROOK, Prof. Mor. and Int. Phil.  
D. D. WHEEDON, Prof. Logic, Rhet. and His.  
J. HOLMES AGNEW, Prof. Ancient Languages.  
SAMUEL DENTON, Prof. Theory and Practice Med.  
Department.

From the Rev. Dr. PENNY, one of the Visitors of the University of Michigan, and formerly President of Hamilton College.

Grand Rapids, 20th June, 1850.

The frequent changes of elementary books in all our schools, although the consequence of a very laudable and desirable ambition, in the cause of education, is nevertheless loudly and justly complained of, as a serious evil; causing loss and perplexity alike to the parent, the teacher, the bookseller, and pupil. It is not easy to find a better remedy than that proposed by our Superintendent of Public Instruction, viz. that by a general and official recommendation of the best books now extant, their general adoption should, as far as possible, be secured, and that, from time to time, such changes should be made, through the same channel, and such only, as a due regard to merit may demand.

JOSEPH PENNY.

From the Rev. J. BALLARD, Principal of the Union School, Grand Rapids.

I entirely concur with Dr. Duffield in regard to the importance of having a uniformity of school books throughout the State, in our primary and higher schools. The effort to produce a uniformity in our school books, and especially in introducing so good a selection, meets with my hearty concurrence.

JAMES BALLARD, Principal of Union School.

Grand Rapids, June 20, 1850.

From the Teachers of the Female Department in St. Mark's College, Grand Rapids.

The list of school books selected by the Superintendent of Public Instruction as far as examined by the undersigned, elicits our entire commendation, both from the character of the text-books, and the design of uniformity throughout the State. We most cheerfully recommend them to our patrons, and also to the attention of those who are engaged in the advancement of educational interests.

J. A. HOLLISTER.  
G. W. MOORE.

Grand Rapids, June 20, 1850.

From the Detroit Free Press.

It is by law made the duty of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to recommend text books for use of the schools in this State. Repeated changes of text books in schools is the source of much vexation and expense to parents; and while it is desirable, it seems to us, to avoid this, we are inclined to think *uniformity* in the books throughout all our schools is exceedingly important. This is not to be secured in any other way, so far as the recommendation of the Superintendent is concerned, but in the selection of a single set of books. Heretofore, we believe, *various* text books in the several branches of education, have been recommended, and this has been the source of much difficulty with school officers in making the selection which would secure a desirable uniformity in the text books.

From the Jackson Patriot.

The list of books selected by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, we are glad to see, elicits the entire commendation of the Press. This is right, and speaks well for the interest felt on this subject in different sections of the State.

We bespeak for the whole list of books recommended, a critical examination. One very important feature in this selection we notice, is, the Superintendent recommends but one author on the same branch of study.—The object is to secure, as far as practicable, uniformity of text books in our District Schools. We sincerely hope that school officers, teachers, and the friends of Common Schools throughout the State, will co-operate with the Superintendent in a work so vital to the interests of our schools.

From the Detroit Daily Advertiser.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction has, after examining them, recommended a series of books as best adapted to the use of our common schools throughout the State. The necessity of *uniformity* in school books in the primary branches of education is quite apparent. To bring about this uniformity, the co-operation of school teachers and school Boards is important and necessary.

From the American Citizen.

The necessity of uniformity in books used in Common Schools, has long been seen and felt, and we are pleased to notice the efforts of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the President of the Board of Education, to establish a list to be introduced in every common school throughout the State. Those interested in education will hail with pleasure the attempt of these gentlemen to accomplish an object which must, without fail, eradicate an evil of long standing and a serious obstacle in our otherwise rapid strides towards a perfect system of free schools. Here is a theory recommended, which if successful, will give to our system of Common School Education alasting benefit and healthy advancement.

From the Macomb County Herald.

We are glad to notice that the Superintendent has, upon full examination, determined to recommend the list of books hereinafter enumerated, for the use of all the schools in this State. This effort at uniformity, if successful—as we trust it may be—cannot otherwise, in our opinion, than aid materially in the great cause of education.

The importance of uniformity in the school books throughout the State, must, upon a moment's reflection be, we think, apparent to all. The schools can be more certain of being supplied with books, and at much lower prices. The merchants in the country, and others who are generally expected to supply the books, will be at no loss to know what kind of books to purchase and to keep on hand. But to be successful in his efforts at reform in this measure, it is highly important that the Superintendent should meet with the hearty co-operation of the several School Boards, and the friends of education generally, throughout the State; and we really hope there will be no lack of such co-operation.