

their reports, continue to advise the passing of a compulsory law, and evidently regard it as a panacea for many evils felt in our school system. We have, with all respect for the opinion of these gentlemen, to differ with them on this very important matter. Because of its importance we have looked at it and studied it from all sides, and having done so, are yet persuaded that the country is not yet prepared to make such a measure a law; were it made the law, the litigation and decided hostility it assuredly would encounter would ensure failure. When such a law is put on our statute book it must be enforced, otherwise its presence will retard rather than accelerate our educational efforts. The public mind needs a more careful education on this subject, that it may better understand what is implied in the measure, before an attempt is made to force rate-payers, and especially parents in poor and remote sections to act so decidedly against their long cherished and strong prejudices. Where the law has been enacted, and its operations sanctioned by the favorable opinion of an intelligent people, with but few exceptions, almost no beneficial results have followed.

We should work out to their proper issues the measures we have, adapting them, from time to time, to the differing circumstances of the country as experience may dictate, and thus preparing the way, we may reasonably hope to reach a point in our history when a law for compulsory attendance at school shall arise from circumstances that make evident the necessity of the measure.

We should like to see a truant law for the City of Halifax, as in this city the experiment could be better tested by having its provisions more decidedly enforced. Success in the city would result in the adoption of the law by other municipalities, and in this way another step be taken toward the compulsory law so often presented for consideration.

BOOKS.

Recently some additions have been made to the list of Books prescribed for use in the Public Schools, among which three new sets of readers will be found. For a length of time a number of teachers and inspectors urged the desirableness of supplying reading books of more recent compilation, and thereby furnishing to our advanced pupils specimens of our best and latest literature. The readers now prescribed are the Academic Progressive readers, in six books, the Illustrated English readers, and the Royal readers. The two former are published by William Collins & Sons, of Glasgow; the last named by Nelson & Sons, also of Glasgow. All the above named books are valuable works and are rapidly taking the place of those hitherto used. The Illustrated English Readers form an entirely new series, and are, in matter and arrangement, admirably suited to our Common Schools. The most important words with their meaning in the text are placed at the beginning of each lesson, and other most valuable aid to the teacher is provided. In all, the extracts comprise besides old and well known selections, many from new and first class works. These books are all well bound, the type is good, and can be supplied to Trustees probably cheaper than any readers heretofore.