

system was necessary Mr. Dallas had attacked the principal features of the Provincial School System; and, in his manner of doing so, he thereby endorsed the strong statements which had been made against that System by certain of the Supporters of Separate Schools, and thus he rendered the Separate School agitation subsidiary and substantial aid.*

The majority of the Booksellers in Upper Canada, having appealed by Petition to the Legislature against the operations of the Educational Depository, as contrary to precedent in other Countries, and, even, as stated by the *British Colonist* in its Editorial on the subject), without Government authority in this Province, the Chief Superintendent prepared a Special Report upon that and other matters, which was laid before the House of Assembly, in which he showed, that, in what he had been enabled to do, in providing Library Books, Maps, Apparatus and other School Material, he had not only the full authority of the Government for what he had done, but that abundant means had been furnished by the Legislature, at its instance, so as to enable him to do so the more efficiently. He further pointed out, that, in establishing the Educational Depository he had followed the example, as he had shown, not only of the Privy Council Committee on Education, but also that of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, and in some of the United States, in providing a Depot, or Depository, for the supply to the Schools with these necessary adjuncts to their efficient operations. The Chief Superintendent further pointed out that the Statements of the Booksellers, in regard to which they had been misinformed, were entirely erroneous, and that the Depository System was the only one which the Government, (as in other Countries), could adopt with a view to accomplish efficiently what was necessary to be done in that matter. The Chief Superintendent felt that, having established a Normal School for the training of School Teachers, it was both necessary and fitting, that he should see that they were, when appointed to Schools, provided with such suitable material and appliances, or so called "tools of the trade", as would enable them to make their Schools effective and efficient. He felt too, that this supply of School Material should be furnished at such prices, and under such safe-guards, as would promote economy on the one hand, and, on the other, a proper supervision over the expenditure of the Grant, and also care in regard to the kind and character of the Books and Apparatus provided for the Schools.

One interesting matter referred to in this Volume is the Confidential Report furnished to Sir Edmund Head, at his request, by the Chief Superintendent on the Separate School Systems of Upper and Lower Canada. This, as suggested by the Governor-General and Attorney-General (John A.) Macdonald, led to the preparation of an elaborate Special Report, in 1858, on that subject, and also on the Public School Library System, for the information of the Members of the Legislature.

*The *Montreal True Witness* of the 7th of May, 1858, in referring to this kind of subsidiary aid, said: "That we are not left to fight the good fight alone, is the great fact which we wish to impress upon our Readers. We have allies in the Protestant Camp,—more allies than we wot of."