

which a free constitution of government is founded; and it is the duty of each teacher to endeavour to lead his pupils, as their ages and capacities will admit, into a clear understanding of the tendency of the above-mentioned virtues, in order to preserve and perfect the blessings of law and liberty, as well as to promote their future happiness, and also to point out to them the evil tendency of the opposite vices.

#### No. 4.

#### *REGULATIONS of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, as to the Government of Schools with respect to Attendance and Religious Instruction.*

1. The ordinary school business, during which all children, of whatever denomination they may be, are required to attend, is to embrace a specified number of hours each day.

2. Opportunities are to be afforded to the children of each school for receiving such religious instruction as their parents or guardians approve of.

3. The patrons of the several schools have the right of appointing such religious instruction as they may think proper to be given therein: provided that each school be open to children of all communions; that due regard be had to parental right and authority; that, accordingly, no child be *compelled* to receive, or be present at, any religious instruction to which his parents or guardians object; and that the time for giving it be so fixed, that no child shall be thereby, in effect, excluded, directly or indirectly, from the other advantages which the school affords. Subject to this, religious instruction may be given, either during the fixed school hours or otherwise.

4. In schools, towards the building of which the Commissioners have contributed, and which are, therefore, vested in trustees for the purpose of national education, or, which are vested in the Commissioners in their corporate capacity, such pastors or other persons as shall be approved of by the parents or guardians of the children respectively, shall have access to them in the school-room, for the purpose of giving them religious instruction there, at convenient times to be appointed for that purpose, whether those pastors or persons shall have signed the original application or otherwise.

5. In schools NOT VESTED, but which receive aid only by way of salary and books, it is for the Patrons to determine whether religious instruction shall be given in the school-room or not; but if they do not allow it in the school-room, the children whose parents or guardians so desire, must be allowed to absent themselves from the school,

at reasonable times, for the purpose of receiving such instruction elsewhere.

6. The reading of the Scriptures, either in the Protestant Authorized or Douay Version, as well as the teaching of Catechisms, comes within the rule as to religious instruction.

7. The rule as to religious instruction applies to public prayer and to all other religious exercises.

8. The Commissioners do not insist on the Scripture lessons being read in any of the National Schools, nor do they allow them to be read during the time of secular or literary instruction, in any school attended by children whose parents or guardians object to their being so read. In such case, the Commissioners prohibit the use of them, except at the times of religious instruction, when the persons giving it may use these lessons, or not, as they think proper.

9. Whatever arrangement is made in any school for giving religious instruction, must be *publicly notified* in the school-room, in order that those children, and those only, may be present whose parents or guardians allow them.

10. If any other books than the Holy Scriptures, or the standard books of the Church to which the children using them belong, are employed in communicating religious instruction, the title of each is to be made known to the Commissioners.

11. The use of the books published by the Commissioners is not compulsory; but the titles of all other books which the conductors of schools intend for the ordinary school business, are to be reported to the Commissioners; and none are to be used to which they object; but they prohibit such only as may appear to them to contain matter objectionable in itself, or objectionable for common instruction, as peculiarly belonging to some particular religious denomination.

12. A Registry is to be kept in each school of the daily attendance of the scholars, and the average attendance, according to the form furnished by the Commissioners.

*Note by the Chief Superintendent of Schools for Upper Canada*—No grants are made by Government in Upper Canada, as in Ireland, towards the *erection of school-houses*. Such houses, among us, are erected by the people themselves in each municipality. Over such houses, therefore, the Government has no control. The elected Trustees of schools in Canada, sustain the same relation to our Common Schools that the local "Patrons" sustain to the National Schools in Ireland. The sole difference, therefore, between the National Schools in Ireland and in Upper Canada, in respect to religious instruction, is, that with us, the Trustees or