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within their reach, and that at prices which will save them thousands of dollars per annum in the purchase of them,—thus adding to their resources of knowledge and enjoyment, by the variety and character of Books to which they can have access, and the increase of facilities and the reduction of expenses in procuring them.

5. It will be seen that the Books selected, embrace nearly the whole field of human knowledge,—at least so far as it is embraced in works of popular reading,—including the best works of the kind that issue from the English and American press, and enabling each youth of our land to converse with the learned and the wise of all ages and nations, and on any subject of intellectual inquiry, or of practical life.\* By our System of Schools we are putting it into the power of every Canadian to read, and read he will, whether for good, or for evil; and his ability to read will prove a blessing, or a curse, according to the manner in which he exercises it. By our System of Libraries, we are providing them with wholesome and entertaining reading on almost all subjects, without the poison of publications which are calculated to enfeeble the mind, and vitiate the taste, and corrupt the morals.

6 Perhaps to no Books in the Catalogue will attention be more readily directed, than to those which relate to Natural History, Manufactures, Useful Arts, and Agriculture,—presenting in attractive forms the wonders, beauties, and curiosities of Nature, and those various creations of Science, Genius and Industry, to which our age owes its preeminence over any preceding age of mankind. It is not to be supposed that every reader will, or can, read every Book in the Catalogue, but the variety of Books affords the means of gratifying every variety of rational want, interest, and taste. I hope, at the same time, to be able to make valuable additions to this Catalogue of Books from year to year, and especially the coming year; and I shall be happy to receive suggestions from any quarter for that purpose.

7. It now remains for the Municipalities to act; and, before I can proceed any further, I must know what the Municipalities are willing to do in regard to the establishment of Public School Libraries. I am prepared to apportion the sum of Nine Thousand pounds (£9,000 = \$36,000) among those Municipalities who will co-operate as the law requires between this and the First day of next July, in the establishment of these Libraries; but I cannot say what sum I shall be able to apportion to each Municipality, until I know how many Municipalities will accept the offer, and thus become entitled to the benefits of the Apportionment.

8. I beg, therefore, that you will have the goodness to inform me at your earliest convenience, and, at the latest, by the Twentieth of next September, what sum your Municipality will raise for Library purposes, in addition to any sum I may be able to apportion to it out of the School Library Grant; also when you will be prepared to pay that sum, on condition of getting the Books desired at the time which you may specify. If you can pay whatever amount you may appropriate by the Twentieth of October, for the purpose of establishing a Library, or Libraries. I shall be able to procure the Books which you may desire before the close of navigation, and you will have the advantage of their perusal during the ensuing Winter.

9. Then, as to the selection of Books for your Libraries, I shall have pleasure in doing all in my power to give effect to your wishes, and promote your interests; and I will do so in any of the following ways:—*First*, If you select and state what Books you wish to procure, I will see that the Books specified on your list are procured and forwarded to you. Or, *Secondly*, If you designate certain kinds of Books which you desire, (or do not desire), and refer the selection of the rest to me, I will act for you. Or, *Thirdly*, If you state the amount you are prepared to expend for Library Books, and wish me to select such Books from the General Catalogue, as I may think best for a Library costing a certain sum, I will do the best I can for you. The first of these modes of proceeding, would be the least troublesome, and the most agreeable to me; but I am willing to adopt either of the other modes, should you desire it. I will thank you to let me know, in your reply, what Books you desire, or in what way you wish to have a selection of them made. The works may be more conveniently designated by their Catalogue numbers, under each general division than by their titles. I hope you will see that, in every case, the Library is sufficiently large to allow one, or two, volumes at a time in each Family.

10. In the Catalogue will be found short descriptive or characteristic notices of many of the Books. For the opinions expressed in these notices, I am alone responsible. I hope to be able to prepare, in successive months, similar notices of the rest of the Books contained in the Catalogue . . .

TORONTO, August 3rd, 1853.

EGERTON RYERSON.

\* This refers more particularly to that part of the Catalogue relating to "Practical Life," containing lists of Books of Tales, Moral Essays and Sketches, Domestic Life, etcetera