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POWERS OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN UPPER CANADA.

(DEFERRED FROM LAST MONTH.)

The powers of the Executive Government in administering the Common School System of Upper Canada, is a subject which has elicited some discussion; and from its great importance, and the apparent absence of any general information respecting it, even on the part of those who have spoken most confidently, we deem it advisable to consider the foundation and extent of those powers, and compare them with the powers possessed and exercised by the executive authorities of other popular governments from which our School laws have been derived.

Before proceeding in this inquiry, we beg to make two preliminary remarks. The first is, that *forms of government* and *systems of education* ought not to be confounded. The systems of elementary instruction in Prussia and Switzerland are substantially the same, though no two forms of government can differ more widely than the democracy of Switzerland from the despotism of Prussia. Thus may a system of instruction be borrowed from a country without adopting in any respect the political principles peculiar to its form of government. This remark furnishes an answer to two classes of objectors; to those who have objected to our School system because it in part exists under despotic monarchies, and to those who have objected to it because it has been chiefly adopted from democratic republics. The objection is in both respects fallacious, though it has been the theme of much thoughtless writing.

A second preliminary remark is, that there can be no provincial or state system of elementary education, unless it is *one* throughout the Province or State. To be one there must be one central or governmental authority to direct its general operations. The fundamental object of what is called responsible government is to stamp the public mind of a country upon the government in its composition, and in all its legislative and administrative acts, even in the smallest municipal divisions of the country. Each local officer and each local body ought to be subordinate to that Executive power which represents the voice of the whole country. This principle is common to both a republic and a free constitutional monarchy—only under the former, the people elect the Head of the Executive, while under the latter they control the appointments of the advisers of the Executive authority.