

omission of enactments which should confer on him greater powers, empowering him to interfere more directly and absolutely in the local working of the law, whenever the School Commissioners should neglect or refuse to perform the duties assigned to them.—(p. 16.)

It is not unimportant to remark in this place, that the salary of the Superintendent and all the contingent expenses of his office, are paid out of the public chest and not out of the legislative grant for education, as certain enemies of the Act have stated and published. Not one penny is taken out of the fund last named, the destination whereof is special and sacred. It is employed solely in aiding the people to give their children the instruction of which they stand in need.—(p. 17.)

The present School Law and its Opponents.

In contending for the maintenance of the present Law and the conservation of its principles, I feel that I am performing a difficult—but an honourable task. It is difficult, because a number of persons have leagued together against this Law, and because, in certain localities, the inhabitants are violently opposed to it; but honourable, because I perform it from an honest and conscientious conviction, based upon observation and experience, and upon a mass of facts which no other person than myself has, by his position, the means of becoming so intimately acquainted with as I am. And the task of defending the principles of the present Law is honourable also, because, in defending them, I work earnestly for the success of the fairest cause in which the true friends of the prosperity and happiness of the country can now be engaged. I do not despair, therefore, of carrying with me, in this work, the best wishes not only of fathers of families and legislators, but also of every disinterested, independent, honest, and sensible man in the country. For who does not now feel how important it is not to turn the people aside from their course, not to make them lose (and for a long time perhaps) all confidence in every kind of Education Law, and not to revive in the hearts of those egotists who are ready to oppose everything, the irrational and cruel hope of seeing every system of public instruction annihilated.

Our efforts in the great work must be continued with ardor, and we must apply ourselves with new zeal to secure the success of those means which have been so generally successful in willing hands. As to those who bear no good will to the work and are determined to oppose everything, it is useless to endeavour to legislate to their tastes, unless we intend our legislation to be anomalous and monstrous, and to enact that henceforth nothing shall be done for the education of the people. Unless such were its character, no Education Law, though it should be sent down from heaven, would obtain their frank and sincere co-operation. For the rest, the present Law being generally known, liked and appreciated, and working generally well, changes in it which would please the inhabitants of certain localities would assuredly displease those who approve and support it, and would therefore constitute an act of exceptional legislation, for the purpose of the minority of the people of the country.—(pp. 19-20.)

Compulsory Provision for Elementary Education.

Compulsory provision for the purpose of educating the children of the people, resembles the Criminal Law in this, that it in no way interferes with or concerns the well disposed. Compulsion for the purpose of elementary education is compulsion only upon those who are indifferent, apathetic, ill-disposed or opposed to popular education; for those who are well disposed and friendly to education are in no way constrained by this compulsion, since, according to the equitable provision which requires from those liable to contribution such sums only as are proportionate to their means, they pay less towards the amount required by law, than they so generally and laudably paid under the voluntary system. Now the number of such persons is great in this country, and to legislate for those who are thus opposed to them on the subject of the Common School Law, would be to legislate for a very small minority of the people.—(p. 34.)

Policy of the Opponents of the Law.

If the present School Law were really bad, it would not require so much trouble,