

of it, in the face of a telegram from the Education office, of Dec. 6. I will just tell you the whole story, perhaps you can unravel the whole mystery. If I have in any way acted contrary to your wishes, be assured I thought I was complying with your orders.

About the 1st September, I received from Mackinlay, a parcel containing a set of the Royal Readers, 1 to 6 inclusive, and a set of the Wall Cards, with a request to introduce them into the Schools, stating *I think*, that they would be prescribed. I have mislaid the letter and am not sure of his words. However, under the impression that they were to be prescribed, I went to the Bookseller and asked him if he would import them; he said, "decidedly not; he had a cart-load of Nelson's on hand, and he wished to get rid of them first; he would do nothing to injure the sale of those on hand; he was willing to *exchange* with Mackinlay for the new ones, nothing else." I wrote to Mackinlay, and so did the Bookseller to that effect, and there the whole matter dropped.

During the autumn I frequently spoke to all the teachers of the Town Schools about the books, and they unanimously expressed themselves pleased to have an addition from which to select reading books, *as soon as they were prescribed*. I had only once accidentally heard of the Collins' Series, and did not suppose they would ever be introduced here. I concluded we had to deal only with the Royal Readers or the old Nelson Series.

While in this state of uncertainty, I received the following telegram:—

HALIFAX, Dec. 6, 1876.

To G. J. Farish, M. D., Inspector :

Please send, with your own, names of such teachers and others for petition to Council to-day, as want Royal Readers on prescribed list.

SAMUEL ARCHIBALD.

I received it on the morning of the 7th, and believed I would be too late; but as I *might not* be, I resolved to send the names of those teachers with whom I had conversed, and who expressed themselves desirous of having the books. I thought that the Council of Public Instruction might not have met on the 6th, but I had no time to see them, and therefore immediately telegraphed as follows:—

"Inspector, G. J. Farish; Teachers, A. Cameron, J. Munro, J. Mackay, M. Webster, L. Goudey, A. Starratt, M. Starratt, E. Young, M. Woodworth, J. Page, H. Crosby, M. Taylor, D. Landers, H. Ellis, L. Bent, J. Harrison, A. Trask, E. Killam, R. Woodworth."

This course I believed to be in accordance with your own wishes, and that *you* required that the Royal Readers should be placed on the prescribed list.