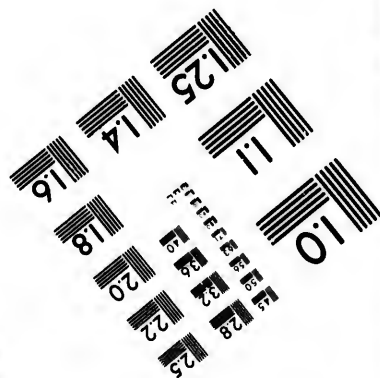
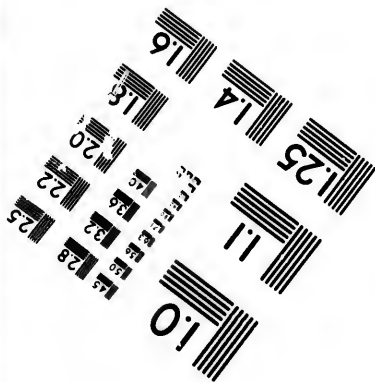
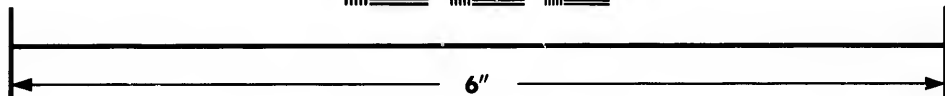
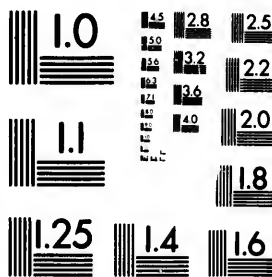


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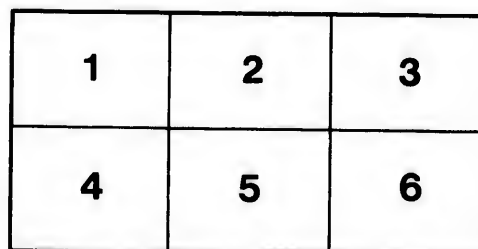
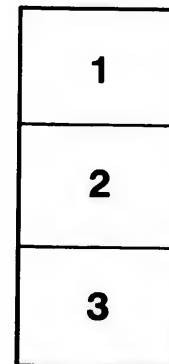
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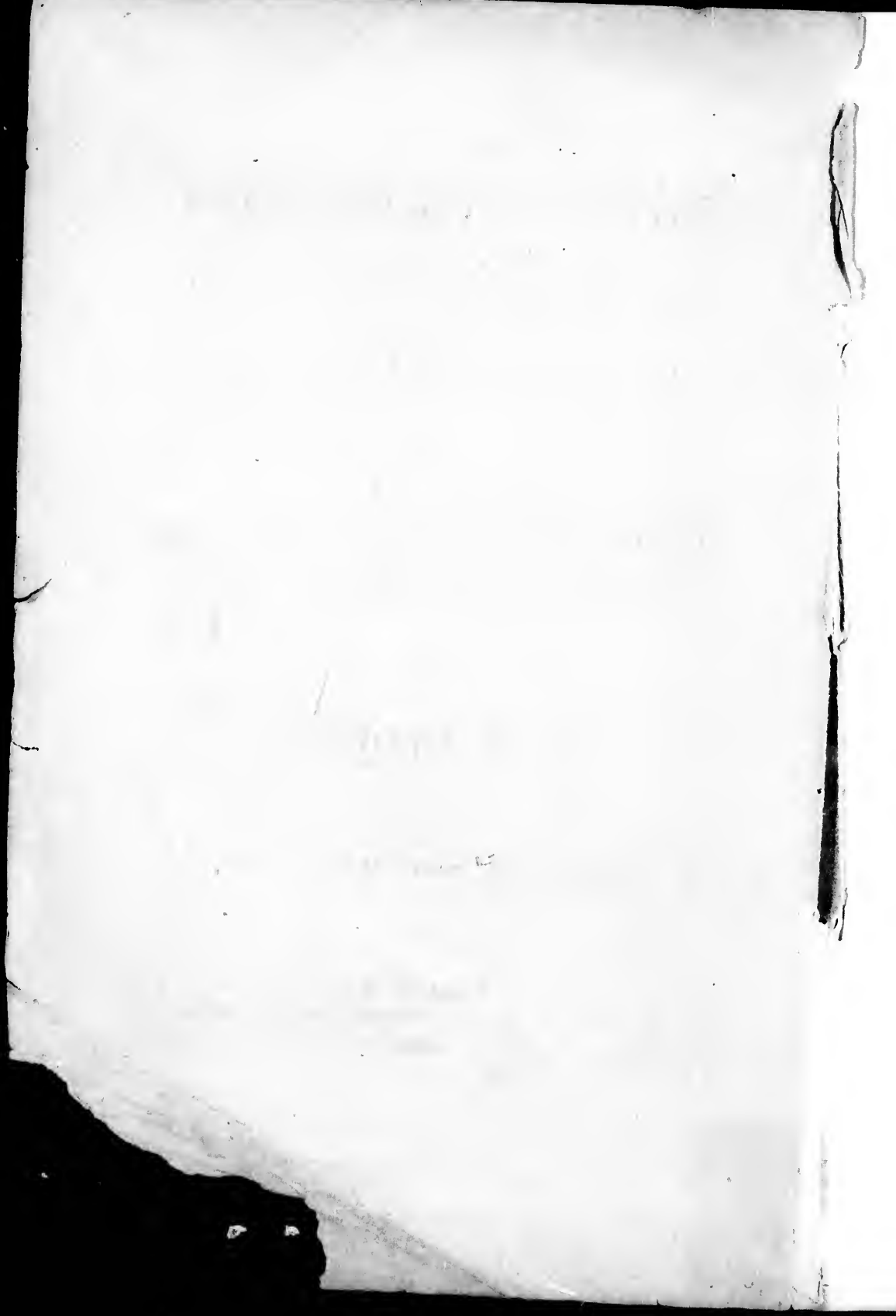
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NO POLITICS IN EDUCATION, THE
ONLY SOUND AND WISE POLICY.

A LETTER

TO

A. M'NUTT PATTERSON Esq.

President of the Educational Association of Nova Scotia,

BY

F. W. GEORGE.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER, 1869.

Halifax, N. S.:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM MACNAB, PRINCE STREET.

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LETTER

TO

A. M'NUTT PATTERSON, ESQ.,

President of the Educational Association of Nova Scotia.

SIR,—

The *Educational Journal* for August contains an official notice that another person has been appointed Inspector of Schools for Cumberland County. No sooner was the deed done than my name was dragged into the newspaper press and the dismissal denounced with just severity. If the cause of the discussion referred to were a purely private and personal matter, I should consider it my duty to remain silent. But as the act in question is an unmistakable development of a new policy with respect to education, I have no right and no disposition to keep from the public facts which are essential to enable them to form a correct judgment regarding that policy.

Again, since the organization of the Association, over which you so ably preside, I have been honoured with the confidence of the teachers, to whom I owe an explanation of the cause of my removal from office and separation from all connexion with the Education of the Province. That confidence I am proud to say I still enjoy,

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as indicated by the fact that a petition was recently presented from the officers of the Association praying for my restoration to office. I owe it to the interests of education to justify that confidence. I owe it to myself, my family and friends, to vindicate my own character and reputation as a man, as a Christian, and as an Educationist. "Every man is a debtor to his profession."

On these and other grounds I deem it my duty to address you with all possible brevity, and state fairly and temperately the facts of the case, and the principles involved in the controversy, into which I have been so reluctantly drawn.

Before discharging the duty which I have assigned to myself, it is but right that I should state that I never have identified, and do not now identify myself with any political party. I have no selfish or party ends to serve.

Having thus stated my reasons for addressing you and made a necessary explanation, I am in a position to proceed with my story.

In July 1867, I stated to T. H. Rand, Esq., Superintendent of Education, the fact that teaching was beginning to tell rather severely on my health, and that I had been purposing to retire from the work for six or twelve months. Mr. Rand immediately proposed to send me to the County of Cumberland to retrieve the cause which had been seriously injured by neglect. Not a word was said about anything but Education. However willing to co-operate in advancing Education, I was quite unprepared to give a definite answer as to my future course. Three or four months elapsed without any answer whether I would accept the situation or not, though Mr.

Rand wrote repeatedly on the subject. In the first week of November he telegraphed to me to go up to Halifax, and on my arrival pressed me strongly to accept. On stating difficulties and reluctance, he produced the Commission, from which it appeared that I had been appointed on the 25th October. After taking some time for reflection and consultation with my friends, I resolved to act. I should state that another situation was in my offer at the same time.

Exception was taken to my appointment solely on the ground that I was a non-resident. The answer to this from Mr. Rand and the Council of Public Instruction now in office was conveyed to me on 16th Nov. in the following terms:—"I am directed to instruct you to proceed at once with the discharge of your duties." Thus it is proved beyond the possibility of dispute that my appointment was made by one Council of Public Instruction, and confirmed by their successors, who are now in office. Such was the universal impression throughout this County. More than this. I have been allowed to hold the office for nearly two years, which is a confirmation stronger than words could make it. Without sufficient grounds it would have been very unwise to make arrangements for settling in the County and incurring heavy expense without any object. The truth is I would not consent to act without great pressure from the Superintendent under direction of the Council. Is it not clear that my dismissal was an act of bad faith and gross injustice without parallel and without excuse?

Judge then of my surprise and indignation when, at the close of the semi-annual examination of Teachers in

September 1868, a friend asked me a question which implied that he had heard an unpleasant rumour. The report gradually spread over the whole county. A friend in Halifax asked a member of the Government whether there was any foundation for the story or not. The interview was amusing, and suggestive as to the kind of pressure which unprincipled characters will resort to, to accomplish their base ends. It was alleged that I was a Baptist preacher, "a big, fat man," who had taken an active part in the election contest of 1867. This, of course, was a pure invention, emanating from an interested party, who was a faithful child of the Father of Lies. I did not set a foot in the county till about 50 days after said election. I am ashamed to refer to such things, as must make any man blush for the degradation of his race.

Two months afterwards the report of dismissal was revived. My duties as Secretary of the Educational Association made it necessary for me to go to Halifax, and I resolved to confront my enemies, if they could be found, and bring the matter to an issue without delay. I therefore inquired of Mr. Rand if there was any application from the county for my removal. He informed me that there was no such application, and no complaint against me from any quarter; but on the other hand the strongest remonstrances from persons representing the Educational interests of the county against such a step, as unjust in itself, and injurious to the educational interests of the county. He also stated that he had strongly deprecated my removal. Accompanied by James Farquhar, Esq., a faithful friend, I had an interview with the Hon. W.

Annand, in order to ascertain whether there were any charges against me, on any grounds whatever—official or political. After a brief statement of the circumstances attending my appointment, and an explanation of the Educational state of the county, I put specific questions on these points, and was assured by Mr. Annand that neither he nor any of his colleagues had received from Commissioners, Trustees, Teachers, or indeed any parties, any complaints regarding me, but, on the contrary, what they had heard as to the manner in which I had performed my duty, was satisfactory. He added that the pressure was entirely political and local. Political was explained to mean pressure by a party to get a friend into the office, and that it did not imply any charge against me of meddling in politics. He expressed the hope that the pressure might cease.

After this I told Mr. Rand that I declined to resume my duties till the question was settled one way or other. On 26th January he informed me that he had asked the question in full Council and from what was said he was of opinion that the matter was set at rest. He therefore directed me to go on with the visitation of the schools. Accordingly I dismissed all apprehensions, and devoted myself to the work. Not only so, but I incurred additional expense to enable me to get my travelling done more rapidly.

I had reached Wallace on 27th August last, and was preparing for work, when on Saturday, 28th, I received a letter intimating that another had been appointed in my place, and would assume charge on 1st September. Mr. Rand closed his letter with these words—"I desire

to express the high estimation in which your services have been held by myself since you occupied the office."

I would rather a thousand times receive an injury than inflict one. I would rather receive such a letter than write it. No gold would tempt me to do it. Of course I exonerate Mr. Rand, who, from the terms of the letter, reprobated the deed. The dismissal was on the robber's maxim, "Let him take who has the power," or the American version, "To the victors belong the spoils." I wonder this most abominable maxim is ever uttered in a Christian land without a shudder. It does not come from heaven but from hell.

That letter I showed to Stephen Fulton, Esq., and expressed my intention of rendering prompt obedience, until I should find out whether the dismissal and appointment were legal or not. Accordingly on Monday morning I started for Amherst, and next day for Halifax, in order to ascertain how it was that Mr. Rand could recommend the appointment of another person from the clerical order, and the dismissal of a faithful servant to make room for him.

On arriving in Halifax I found that Mr. Rand was in the country, from which he did not return for a week. In the meantime I had interviews with the Hon. Messrs. Vail and Annand, who assured me again and again that there was no charge against me of incompetency or neglect of duty. Mr. Annand stated that the act was done because there was a "pressure from influential men in Cumberland and Halifax, which they could not resist."

I also prepared a memorial to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, which was presented to General

Doyle by the Rev. George Townshend, and myself. His Excellency agreed to lay it before his advisers, and give its prayer his moral support.

On Mr. Rand's return to Halifax I applied for information regarding the whole affair of my removal from office, when the correspondence to be found in the Appendix took place, which establishes the following facts:—

1. There is no formal minute of my removal and the appointment of another in my place. There is therefore no legal proof of any appointment at all.

2. Political pressure on the Government was the sole cause of alleged action.

3. The Superintendent was opposed to my dismissal and stated that he had reason to doubt the fitness for the office of the person who was pressing for it.

4. To make amends for the injustice admitted to be done me, Mr. Vail stated the willingness of the Council to appoint me to the first eligible vacancy.

It is pertinent to inquire here how the Council could appoint me to any situation at all, if I were really dismissed because I was not a native of Cumberland. At one time it was suggested that I should be sent to Digby.

These letters were handed to the Editor of the *Morning Chronicle* for insertion; but up to this time they have not been published.

STATE OF THE QUESTION.

“Let us now look for a moment at the principle which is at stake.—A meritorious Educational officer is summarily dismissed, in an illegal manner, to make room for a political friend. Mr. George was politically inoffensive.

As an Educationist, no fault was found with him. Yet he was illegally dismissed. Is this to be allowed in Nova Scotia? Is the Executive Council to usurp the functions of the Council of Public Instruction? Is Education to become the arena of political partizanship of the meanest and most virulent type? Is an efficient officer to be illegally dismissed whenever pressure is brought to bear on members of the Government? These are questions which must be met.

“ We have said nothing about Mr. D. which we are not fully able to prove not only by oral testimony, but by *official documents*. We have stated that he has been appointed on political grounds; and Mr. Annand is our authority for the statement. The Government have never denied that this is a fact; they cannot and dare not deny it in the face of the testimony which is *under our hand*. We have stated that Mr. George was dismissed without cause; and this we can prove without the slightest difficulty. No charge whatever was brought against him; and none can be produced. We challenge contradictions on these points.”

Such is the question as it presents itself to a very able writer in the press, whose views of Education have always been of the most liberal and enlightened character. The challenge given has never been accepted. No one has even pretended to attempt any defence of the deplorable folly and gross injustice perpetrated. *Official documents and unimpeachable oral testimony* render it a hopeless task to refute these statements, or answer these ques-

tions. The facts cannot be disputed. The arguments are unanswerable.

It is thus obvious that the late appointment was purely political and partizan. The good of the people and the efficient supervision of education in the county never entered into the calculation at all. The question is thus happily divested of all side issues and irrelevant matter, and stands pure and simple before the people demanding a decisive answer. Shall the interests of Education be sacrificed to political considerations? Shall the office of Inspector be made a prize to be contended for by hostile parties? In every civilized country, and in Nova Scotia till now, Education has been kept sacred and inviolate from the intrusion of party strife. It has been instinctively felt that it would be a fearful profanation to introduce the unholy passions of partizan warfare into the precincts of Schools and Universities. The Church and the School have afforded a noble neutral ground. I know of only one locality in this Province where a different policy prevailed at a season when madness ruled the hour; but it should serve for a warning, not an example to be imitated. The folly of having a Tory School and a Liberal School was speedily manifest to all men, and therefore soon abandoned. But in Cumberland at this moment there is a worse exhibition—politics grasping the supervision, not of one school, but of all the schools, and party feelings fanned into a flame.

I have the most reliable information that appeals have been made with temporary success to the ignorance and selfishness of certain localities. Persons have been told that I had caused the withdrawal of the Book Grant and

wanted to stop the grants of money to the schools. The fact that the Boards of School Commissioners condemned certain old and insufficient schoolhouses, has also been used to excite odium against me. If the policy is henceforth to be to arrest Educational progress by pandering to the selfishness and ignorance, which exist in too many localities, I am thankful not to be the agent of such suicidal folly. I contentedly bear the odium incurred by faithful devotion to Educational interests. At the same time I recollect the proverb, "A lie has no legs."

What will you, sir, and the devoted Teachers throughout the Province, say, when you learn that one of your number, against whom no charge could be brought, and who enjoyed the confidence of the Superintendent of Education, has been hurled from office to make way for a person of another profession, whose claims to the position are founded on political services to a party at the election of 1867? The conclusion is inevitable, and the conviction must be forced on you, that the only way to obtain promotion in the Educational service of the country, is not exclusive attention to the duties of your profession, but services which no man of honor and principle can render without degradation and disgrace. Such being the case, who will in future be willing to submit to all the discomforts and privations incident to the calling without any prospect of promotion? Every true teacher glows with enthusiasm towards his profession, whose prosperity lies at the foundation of the intellectual, moral and material welfare of communities, and whose service is the most useful and honorable, next to the sacred profession. Are the teachers of the Province then prepared

to see our School System degraded, and our Educational interests ruined by becoming the sport of politicians ?

I have no wish to disguise or underestimate my personal wrongs. I have been an educationist all my life, and have filled positions of respectability and influence in Scotland, and in Nova Scotia. I have given all the support in my power to every scheme for the improvement of Education. I therefore accept the sympathy and assistance of my friends in the spirit in which they are offered. But I ask them to forget me, and think only of the principle assailed and trampled under foot in my person. That principle is of vital importance to Educational interests, and must be vindicated at all hazards. No amount of misrepresentation and personal abuse ought to deter the friends of Education from the discussion of the question. "We should all be patriots, were it not for the losses and misrepresentations to which patriotism exposes us." "The triumphing of the wicked is short." "The mills of the Gods grind slowly, but they grind surely." It almost seems that public spirit has left society, and that the race of martyrs in any cause is extinct. But a short and sharp contest cannot fail to issue in the triumph of the principle, *No politics in Education.*

STATE OF THE LAW.

The Education Act, sect. vi., (2), enacts as follows:—
 "The Council of Public Instruction shall have power to appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education, an Inspector of Schools for each County of the Province."

An attentive perusal of this clause will satisfy any one

that the responsibility of recommending the Inspector is by the Law devolved upon the Superintendent of Education, and upon him alone. Neither the Council of Public Instruction, nor the members for the County possess that responsibility. The reason is obvious. The Council do not recommend because there might be a danger of placing in the office partizans unfit for the work. The members do not recommend for the same reason, and also because the Inspector is not a County, but a Provincial officer, appointed by a central and not by a local authority, and paid by the Province, and not the County. He is almost wholly under the control of the Superintendent, except in some matters, as clerk of the Board.

Were the provisions of the last amendment to the Education Act carried out, this would appear manifest without any explanation or argument. Suppose Cumberland and Colchester united for purposes of Inspection, the whole of the outcry about a local man would become perfectly absurd. In New Brunswick there are only four Inspectors to fourteen (14) Counties, and their districts are changed periodically. It would be rather difficult to apply the rule of nativity in that Province. The New Brunswickers will enjoy a hearty laugh at the "main reason" for my dismissal. I committed the "atrocious crime" of not being born in the County of Cumberland.

"The duties of Inspectors are at once weighty and responsible, and demand for their faithful discharge sound attainments, both literary and professional." So say the Comments. But they say nothing about the necessity of being a resident for a given number of years, or a native of the County. It was reserved for the jealousy of self-

interest to discover that indispensable qualification. A hundred reasons may be assigned for appointing a non-resident, to one for selecting a resident. But I need not enumerate them.

When the Education Act was under discussion in the Provincial Legislature, the Press expressed its fears that the cause of Education would suffer from the Constitution of the Council of Public Instruction; and their apprehensions were not groundless. The same views were urged in the Assembly by Messrs. Archibald and Annand; and the appointment of Inspectors was made to depend on the recommendation of the Superintendent. This was supposed to be an effectual check and safeguard. How the law has become a dead letter, will be made apparent when the Local Legislature meets. Some, who then advocated just and rational views, appear in practice to have renounced them. My dismissal I do not hesitate to characterize as a bold infraction of both the letter and spirit of the Law.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATION OF THE LAW, PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE.

Regarding Law in general, the judicious Hooker beautifully remarks, "The seat of Law is the bosom of God, her voice the harmony of the world; all things in heaven and earth, angels and men, with uniform consent admire her, as the mother of their peace and joy." Judged by its fruits, the Education Law must be pronounced highly beneficial. Its aim is to secure a good education for every child in Nova Scotia. To a very large extent it has been successful. Progress will mainly depend upon

wise and vigorous administration, and exemption from the rivalry of contending parties. Now the recent appointment of a partizan, who is generally believed to be incompetent, has been already followed by disastrous results. Public confidence is fearfully shaken, and party spirit rages uncontrolled. It is apparent that a wedge has been introduced, which will rend asunder our whole system.

Whenever the Local Government changes, the Inspectors will go out of office, and their places be filled by adherents of a different party. The evil will become more aggravated with the lapse of time. Inspectors will be regarded with contempt, and Education will share the disgrace. The inevitable results must be disorganization and decay. No common interest can prosper amidst fierce contention.

OPINION IN THE COUNTY.

The opinion in the general community, especially among Clergymen, Commissioners, and Trustees, the parties in the best position to judge, may be learned from the following Address, which, without any effort, was signed by 110 persons, comprising seven Clergymen, eight Barristers, five Physicians, and many leading and influential men. This may be taken as a good index of the state of feeling throughout the County.

The question of course is not one of mere numbers. If nine-tenths of the people had favoured the act instead of denouncing it, that would not be the slightest palliation of its cruelty and injustice. There is one immutable law of justice, written in the heart of man, and in the Book, by which every action must be weighed. Tested by that

standard, what does the action in question appear, but a gross iniquity and flagrant breach of faith?

☛ The following documents will speak for themselves

COPY OF ADDRESS.

To F. W. George, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the County of Cumberland interested in the cause of Education, have heard with much concern of your being superseded in your office of Inspector of Schools.

We are the more surprised at this act of the Government, inasmuch as the high opinion of the public respecting your capability and success in managing the schools of the county is almost universal. We can look back upon a time not far distant, when the condition of our schools was very different from their present state; and we consider that by your labors chiefly, the reform and improvement have been effected.

Under such impressions we cannot but look upon your removal as a most disastrous event to the interests of Education in this county. Sincerely hoping that even yet we may not be deprived of your valuable services, but that you may again be reinstated in the office from which you have been so unjustly and causelessly dismissed.

We are, Dear Sir,

With great respect

Your Obedt. Servants,

(Signed)

D. A. Steele, A. M., Bap. Pastor,
Alexr. Clarke, D. D., Ref. Presb. Min.
A Thomson, Presb. Min.

George Townshend, C. of E. Clergyman, Commr.
 W. F. Cutten, Commr.
 R. B. Dickey, Senator,
 Joseph Moore, M. D.
 John W. Smith, County Treasurer,
 Thomas R. Black, J. P., Trustee,
 Martin Black,
 C. E. Ratchford, jr., barrister,
 B. Douglas, Merchant, J. P.,
 W. M. Sleep, do.
 Wm. Fowler,
 S. R. Greenfield,
 Wm. Greenfield, J. P.,
 Geo. H. Henshaw, Engineer Int. Railway,
 John Hillson,
 J. Albert Black, editor "Gazette,"
 Cyrus Black, J. P.
 W. J. Hamilton,
 W. D. Main, J. P., Trustee,
 Acheson Moffat, Trustee,
 W. M. Fullerton, Q. C.
 R. K. Smith, J. P.,
 Sidney Kinder,
 C. W. Kinder,
 O. A. Sharp,
 Luther Baker, J. P.,
 J. E. Purdy,
 C. A. Black, M. D.,
 John T. Mellish, B. A., H. M. Co. Academy,
 Charles J. Townshend, Barrister,
 R. B. Boggs, Manager Joggins Mine,
 Lucius Dickson, Merchant,
 R. B. Huestis, do.,
 Robert Donkin, J. P., Commr.
 Samuel Taylor,
 Bayard Dodge,
 Alex. Robb,

Nathan Tupper, M. D.,
C. J. Stewart,
J. D. Kinnear, Barrister,
H. Inglis Moffatt, Barrister,
Alex. McFarlane, Barrister and Q. C.,
James Ritchy,
J. E. McDonald,
Eliakim Newcomb,
Geo. W. Boggs,
Geo. Dewis,
Henry Dunlap, Merchant,
John Ross, do.
W. C. Hewson,
Rufus Embree, Merchant,
Harvey O. Block,
Geo. Browne
Ansley Steeves,
H. Carruthers,
Geo. Keys,
Johnson Lewis,
C. A. Lowe,
F. W. Bent, Barrister,
Andrew Coffey,
F. A. Donkin, J. P.,
C. W. Hewson,
Wm. George, Baptist Minister,
J. A. McKerrow,
W. M. Read,
John F. Wilson,
Nathan Bulmer,
Rufus B. Brown,
R. C. Sharp,
John Cooper,
C. P. Sharp,
Joseph Cove,
Geo. Dimock,
W. C. Dimock,

D. F. Quigley,
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 Charles Morris,
 Samuel Morris,
 J. Hiram Black, J. P.

To a similar address are appended the following names :

Rev. W. B. King, Chairman Parrsboro Board,
 " Duncan McKinnon, Commr.
 Edward Vickery, do.
 Francis Carroll, do.
 N. B. Morris, do.
 James Ward, do.

Names signed to petition for Mr. George's restoration to office:—

James Anderson, Minister of Church of Scotland,
 T. Watson Smith, Wesleyan Minister.
 W. B. Huestis,
 Wm. Fulton,
 Millard Kempton, M. D.,
 Thomas M. Morris,
 John W. Morris,
 Silas Fulton

REPLY.

To the Rev. D. A. Steele, A. M., and the other gentlemen who signed the Address.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg most sincerely to return you my warmest thanks for your very kind and sympathetic Address, which affords me much encouragement in present circumstances. Your high appreciation of my services as Inspector of Schools is exceedingly gratifying to my feelings.

Appointed by the former Council of Public Instruction and confirmed by the present, I entered on the discharge of my duties with a firm resolution to devote myself wholly to my work, which you are pleased to say has not been altogether in vain. Having carefully abstained from interfering with anything beyond my province, in common with yourselves I was surprised at the causeless and unjust act to which you refer. Though I have been an Educationist for twenty years, I have been suddenly hurled out of office to give place to a person of another profession, whose claim is based on political services at last Election. Such an act proclaims that a new and dangerous element has been introduced into the Educational policy of the Province. We are henceforth to have political Inspectors and other school officers. As often as we have a change of Government we shall have new

Inspectors, more and more incompetent and unprincipled, because no man of scholarship and character will degrade himself by accepting an appointment on such terms. It does not require prophetic knowledge to predict the disastrous consequences to Education.

I am not contending for a situation, but a principle of vital importance to the Educational interests of the Province, which the voice of the people will approve and vindicate. In spite of misrepresentation and special pleading, the truth cannot be disguised. "Truth is great and shall prevail."

Again, thanking you for your very kind address, I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

Amherst, 6th Oct., '69.

F. W. GEORGE.

The names signed to Petitions and Addresses at date comprise 500. More petitions are expected to come in.

The opinion of the teachers, which is well known to be unanimous, is indicated by the following letter:—

"I have heard of your dismissal with feelings of intense indignation. Tell me what you think ought to be done, and I am at your service. Believe me, nothing will be left undone that I can do to undo such a gross violation of justice. The history of the Normal School gives me courage."

OPINION OF BODY OF TEACHERS, AND THE PUBLIC.

"The following resolution was adopted at the last meeting of the Teachers' Provincial Convention:

'Resolved, That we hereby respectfully express to the Educational authorities that it is the opinion of the As-

sociation that in the appointment of Inspectors it should be their aim and policy to select them from the teaching profession rather than from the clerical, legal, medical, or other walks of life; and that *special fitness for the office, be the only consideration allowed to influence such appointments.*'

"In conformity with the above resolution, the officers of the Association have presented a petition to the Council of Public Instruction, praying that Mr. F. W. George be restored to his position as Inspector of Schools for the County of Cumberland."

The above paragraph has appeared in several newspapers, and shows how the Teachers of the Province regard the dismissal, and the fatal principle of introducing political considerations into Education.

In Halifax city and elsewhere the act referred to, and the principle on which it proceeds have been viewed with unqualified condemnation.

SUMMARY OF THE CASE AS PRESENTED TO THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR.

I have been engaged for the last twenty years in the service of Education, and for thirteen years of that period in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Without solicitation on my part, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education, I was appointed on 25th October, 1867, Inspector of Schools for the County of Cumberland, by the Council at that time in office, and confirmed by their successors now in office.

The Superintendent has to the last expressed unquali-

fied approval of the manner in which I have discharged my duties.

At Wallace, on 28th August last I received intimation of summary dismissal without any reason assigned.

On arriving at Halifax I learned from the Hon. W. B. Vail, Provincial Secretary, that the members of the Council had concurred in my dismissal, trusting to the local knowledge and representations of the Hon. W. Annand, Provincial Treasurer. When Mr. Annand was asked the reason for the act, he stated that "the pressure from influential persons in Cumberland and *Halifax* was so great that they could not help themselves, and were obliged to dismiss me." Both gentlemen stated in the most explicit manner that there was no charge of incompetency or neglect of duty.

I submit that my case is one not merely of great personal injustice, and breach of faith, but that it involves the dearest interests of every Nova Scotian. The act complained of is a most glaring indication of an intention to turn the Provincial expenditure for Education into a fund to subserve party interests. Against such a course every friend of Education must solemnly protest.

My dismissal is illegal, impolitic and unjust, and fraught with unspeakable injury from the evil precedent thus established.

CONCLUSION.

The facts detailed cannot be disputed. The argument has not been answered, and may safely be pronounced unanswerable. It may suit the selfish objects of some, and the party prejudices of others to pretend that nothing

unusual has occurred, and no harm will result. If mixing up politics with Education be a sound principle, it will of course produce good results; but if it be an evil principle, it will produce disastrous results. "The tree is known by its fruits."

Persons of understanding and candour will be able to decide the point for themselves.

My task is done. How imperfectly it is performed, no one can feel more keenly than myself. But my apology, which is mainly the state of my health caused by a fall, will be accepted by every reasonable person. I am not without hope that the plain statements and reasons submitted will carry conviction to every reader that the cause of Education has been grievously wounded by the introduction of politics into the administration of Education. The insult and injury inflicted on the writer may be forgotten. He is satisfied with what has been said. His losses and wrongs he will endeavour to bear with the patience and fortitude of a Christian. Towards his enemies, persecutors and slanderers he will strive to exhibit something of the spirit of "Him, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again."

Apologizing for the length at which I have trespassed on your patience, I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Amherst, 3rd Nov., 1869.

F. W. GEORGE.

APPENDIX.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. I.

Halifax, Aug. 25th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—I regret that it is my duty to inform you of the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Darragh to the office of Inspector of Schools in your place. Mr. Darragh will be expected to assume the duties of the office on September 1st.

On application from him you will please hand over all papers, books, documents, moneys, &c., &c., belonging to the office of Inspector of Schools for the county.

I desire to express the high estimation in which your services have been held by myself since you occupied the office.

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

T. H. RAND.

F. W. George, M. A., &c., &c.

No. II.

To T. H. Rand, Esq., Clerk Council of Public Instruction.

DEAR SIR,—

I request you to furnish me with a copy of the Minute of Council of Public Instruction dismissing me from my office and appointing another in my place.

You will also kindly state the reasons on account of which I was dismissed ; and whether the act was done on your recommendation or in opposition to it.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. W. GEORGE.

Halifax, Sept. 7, 1869.

No. III.

F. W. George, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—

I have been absent from the City for a week.

In reply to your letter I can only say that I was not present at the meeting of the Council when your dismissal was resolved on, and therefore as far as any official record is concerned, I have only the bare fact.

I know of no reason for your dismissal, except that which the Hon. President of the Council gave me,—

“The Government were pressed to do it.”

From what I have said you will see that the act was certainly not done “upon my recommendation.” Some nine months ago, when your dismissal was contemplated I expressed at length my views on the matter to the Council. I certainly desired your continuance as Inspector, for you must be aware that I have esteemed your services very highly.

Very truly yours,

T. H. RAND.

P. S.—I should state that when I learned of your dismissal, I stated to the Government that I should offer no opposition to the appointment of Mr. Darragh, but that at the same time I had reason to doubt his fitness for the office.

Halifax, Sept. 9, 1869.

No. IV.

Education Office, Sept. 10th 1869.

F. W. George, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—It is proper that I should inform you that the Hon. Provincial Secretary stated to me this morning the willingness of the Council to appoint you to any eligible Educational position, whenever a suitable opportunity shall offer.

It is my earnest wish that your services may ere long be permanently secured in connection with the Education of the Province.

Believe me

Very truly yours,

T. H. RAND.

No V.

T. H. Rand, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 10th Sept. has just been received. For your good opinion and kind intentions accept my warmest thanks.

The intimation of the willingness of the Council to appoint me to any eligible Educational position, which has been made to myself repeatedly in private interviews by some of the members of the Executive, does not atone for the injury done to the cause of Education. That cause has been deeply wounded. It is not for me to drive the weapon home.

The question at issue is not one of personal interest, but of Educational policy. The people of Nova Scotia are called on to decide whether the interests of Education are to be sacrificed to political considerations or not?

The sympathy which I have experienced, and the outburst of honest indignation at a deed which I will not characterize, have been equally spontaneous and unexpected. I am proud of Nova Scotia, and I leave the case

in the hands of the people, without regard to party or creed.

In the mean time, duty and honour forbid me to recede from my position. I ask that my dismissal be cancelled and the interests of education protected.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

F. W. GEORGE.

Halifax, Sept. 11, 1869.

No. VI.

LEGAL OPINION.

Halifax, 16th Sept. 1869.

To the Hon. John W. Ritchie,

SIR,—Having submitted for your consideration, my correspondence with T. H. Rand, Esq., Clerk of the Council of Public Instruction and S. E., and other documents, I request your opinion on the following points :

1. Whether from the evidence produced, Mr. George was dismissed by the Executive Council, or the Council of Public Instruction?

2. Can the Council of Public Instruction dismiss and appoint an Inspector contrary to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education.

I remain, &c., &c.

F. W. GEORGE.

OPINION.

I have no means of knowing whether Mr. George was dismissed by the Executive Council *as such*, or by the Council of Public Instruction; but, as no authority is conferred on the Executive Council to dismiss an Inspector of Schools, I presume the dismissal of Mr. George was the act of the Council of Public Instruction, to whom the Legislature has intrusted the general superintendence of Education.

Though the Act is silent regarding the power to dismiss an Inspector who has proved himself unqualified for the office, or who has misconducted himself, I am of opinion that the Council of Public Instruction has the power of dismissal, for in addition to the general control given to that body, the Act authorizes it to make provisions, not inconsistent with its terms, to meet exigencies occurring under its operation.

The Council of Public Instruction cannot in my opinion legally appoint an Inspector of Schools *contrary to, or without the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education*, for the act explicitly states that the appointment is to be made upon the recommendation of that officer, and the power of appointment by the Government without that recommendation is limited to certain officers named in the Act.

J. W. RITCHIE.

Halifax, 20th Sept., 1869.

VII.

COPY OF PETITION FROM TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Honorable the Council of Public Instruction :

We, the undersigned, officers of the Provincial Association of Nova Scotia, beg respectfully to state that we have learned with deep regret that F. W. George, Esq., has been dismissed from the office of Inspector of Schools for Cumberland County, more particularly as his dismissal and the appointment of his successor are understood, and generally recognized, to be on political grounds.

We are of opinion that making Educational appointments either really or seemingly political, would be productive of the most destructive consequences to the educational interests of Nova Scotia.

The Association has always held that the higher educational appointments should be looked forward to by the

teachers, and serve as a stimulus to their energy, and to their improvement in the science, as well as the practice of teaching, and as a reward for their success in the profession to which they have devoted their talents; and we regret that in the dismissal of Mr. George, a successful teacher of many years' standing, and at present the Secretary of the Association, and in the appointment of a gentleman entirely unknown in our educational work, the Teachers of the Province are apparently obliged to realize that no manifestation of talent, or eminence in their profession, will obtain or secure for them its higher situations of trust, responsibility and remuneration.

In approaching your Honorable Body on the present occasion, and in making these representations, we trust we shall not be considered as ourselves trespassing on political ground, but we feel that our position as officers of the Association, demands of us, that we should make known our views on this subject; and we beg, with all proper deference, to submit, that great benefit will result from replacing Mr. George in the position from which he has been, we doubt not, somewhat hastily dismissed.

And remain,

Very respectfully,

[Signed by Officers of the Association.]

