

SCHOOL VISITORS' REPORT.

on this topic, with the view of establishing harmony, by assimilating on the principle of equality, the course and terms of instruction, and to obviate the discrepancy and disparity, Members of the Board agreed that the Summer vacation, this season, would be *four weeks*, from the 5th July to the 5th of August. I informed the Teachers of this provisional order, which included the Normal School.

Miss Davis asked permission to close her School a week earlier, but promised to observe the limits prescribed, in respect to the *four weeks*.

The other Teachers complied with the order, except Mr. R. McNeill, who closed his on the 6th instant. He does not teach on Saturdays, considering himself entitled to exemption granted to the Grammar and the Normal Schools.

Some of the other schools are open on alternate Saturdays.

Mr. Webster says that the terms of the Normal School have been defined by a previous order of the Board.

Miss McKinnon does not teach on Saturdays.

It is desirable that this irregularity would be immediately rectified, to avoid confusion and controversy.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

JOHN ARBUCKLE,
School Visitor.

8th July, 1864.

TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

GENTLEMEN;

I respectfully submit the accompanying documents comprising Summarised Statistics of the School Districts in the Eastern Section, on a scale adapted to the general course on the Registers, with an appendix, giving a condensed *Precis* of examinations.

I presume that reference in detail to the manner in which the Orders of the Board have been carried out with respect to the selection of Candidates for the Scholarships; the duration of the Mid-summer Holidays in the City Districts; the Vacations on alternate Saturdays in all Districts; the establishment of Grammar Schools, by merging two Districts into *one*; the removal of old School-houses to *new sites*, together with other subjects, would be *now* unnecessary recapitulation of the Reports then submitted.

I think that the progress of Education is, on the whole, very satisfactory: the improvement in Spelling, Reading and Writing, is particularly gratifying; likewise in discipline and method.

As a class, the Teachers deserve praise for zeal and faithfulness; but there are a few who ought never to have been Schoolmasters. Competent Teachers expect, and they are entitled to remuneration adequate to their services; and I regret to state that the late amendment of the Statute, has disheartened all of them. Few received, in reality, the subsidy to compensate for the reduction of their salaries from Government; and Trustees as well as Teachers are clamorous for a remedy, as the amendment failed in its practical working.

Old School-houses are disappearing before more commodious ones.

Several new Districts have been established, and aid has been granted by Government to localities that petitioned for such as the law provides.

In weak settlements, such as Stanhope, in this County; the Union Road, in King's, and other places, to maintain "the average," is difficult; however, the irregular attendance is generally attributable to the negligence or indifference of parents.

I, am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN ARBUCKLE,

School Visitor.

30th March, 1865.