

In the House of Assembly,
Thursday, March 16th, 1840.

The following Report of the Special Committee appointed last Session, to acquire information during the recess, touching such amendments as it may be expedient to make to the Act for the encouragement and support of District and other Schools, was ordered to be printed as an Appendix to the Journals; and also published once in each of the Newspapers of this Island.

By the House,
WILLIAM CULLEN, Clerk.

The Committee submit, that the Act should authorize the assessment of persons not subscribing to any school within three miles of their residence, and having a child or children betwixt the ages of six and eighteen. This assessment to be imposed by the Trustees of any School distant not more than one mile and one quarter from such non-subscribers; and in no case to exceed thirty shillings per scholar, nor to be imposed for more than three children in the same family. An affidavit by any individual so assessed, that he or she is in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to pay for the education of their children, or a Certificate by any two Magistrates or Commissioners of Small Debts to the same effect, to exempt him from such assessment for that year.

In regard to assessment, your Committee beg further to remark, that this should not be allowed to apply to any children who have been three entire years at school—that where there is only child in the family, the assessment should only apply to one half of the year; and that where the children are under ten years of age, and reside one mile from the school-house, the same rule should be observed.

The Committee further submit, that it would appear advisable to appoint Commissioners in every County, on the same plan as is laid down in the Act of Nova Scotia, or of Trustees subordinate to the Quarter Sessions, as in the Act of New Brunswick, of March, 1833—the former of which, with the exception of a few clauses, and the addition of one or two others, the Committee think, in all that regards District Schools, is still more applicable to this Colony than the latter; but that either of them is more adapted to this country than the School Act at present in force.

In regard, however, to the Grammar Schools, the Committee submit, that in the present state of the Revenue, and of the mass of the people, this Colony cannot afford to maintain by legislative aid seminaries more expensive than Schools for the ordinary branches of Education—that when these are settled on an efficient and solid system throughout the country, then, should the public funds admit of any additional expenditure, the Legislature may make an appropriation for such seminaries; but that at all times the expense of instructing youth in the higher branches must, in the counties, chiefly devolve on the parents whose children are expected to be enabled thereby to reap in after years emolument and honour—and that in the meantime the whole of the public money that can be spared from the Treasury for educational purposes, (with the exception of a higher allowance to one master in Charlottetown,) should be devoted to the establishment of common schools.

The Committee further submit, that should the House decline to adopt the plan followed either in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, yet certain changes in the present Act are imperatively called for.

1st. That as to Schools having on an average fifteen scholars, and where (including board, lodging and washing, at £15 a year) £30 is raised for the payment of the Teacher, and he has by the Board, or by two Justices of the Peace, been found qualified to teach Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, and to be of decent character, the Teacher should get £7 10s. annually from the Treasury. All teachers of schools, where the salary and number of pupils exceed the above, to get £12 a year—and no other seminary or educational institution (with the exception of one in Charlottetown, to get more, till there shall be established, for every thirty-six families, one school belonging to either of the above classes.

2d. Rescinding the tedious and expensive routine in drawing the Treasury money, which the present Act imposes on the teachers; that it should be drawn on the certificate of the Trustees, and the two highest Justices of the Peace, or Commissioners of Small Debts.

3d. That all Teachers who have once passed the Board, or have been found qualified as aforesaid, shall stand qualified as passed during life and good behaviour.

4th. The examinations to be held quarterly by the Trustees, and the Justice of the Peace, or Commissioner of Small Debts, highest resident (if not distant more than six miles,) on whom it should be obligatory to attend twice in every year, on such days as they may appoint, giving intimation to any one of the Trustees ten days previous. The certificate of a majority of the Trustees and Visitors, that they believe the teacher has done his duty, should, on transmission to the Colonial Secretary, be laid before the Governor in Council, in order to the warrant being issued to the teacher, or any person to whom he may endorse the same. If the majority of the Visitors think the teacher has not done his duty, they are to transmit to the Colonial Secretary a certificate to that effect, stating their objections to the teacher's conduct; and it should then be in the power of the Governor in Council, on perusal of any defence the teacher may offer, to grant a part or the whole of the Government aid, or entirely to withhold it.

5th. The Committee submit, that there should be in every year three weeks' vacation, to be at such time or times as may be agreed on by the Trustees and the teacher—failing which agreement, to be the last ten days in May, and the last eleven days in October. No other vacations, except one Saturday in the fortnight, Christmas and Good Friday.

In case of dispute between the subscribers and the teacher, the same should be referred to any two Justices of the Peace, or Commissioners of Small Debts, one to be chosen by the subscribers, the other by the teacher, with power to these to call a third, as umpire. If these would not hear, or hearing, declined to decide, then let the law be open to both parties; but in every instance the teacher should be paid up to the date of the complaint being laid before the Teacher by the Trustees.

If these referees should not in one month communicate to the Trustees and the Teacher, their decision in writing, their power in that matter should cease, and the teacher ought to have liberty to quit the school, or to continue for the remainder of his engagement, and take means for recovering by law the salary corresponding thereto. If, however, the complaint against the teacher be, that he has deserted the School, and will not continue till the termination of his engagement, this should not apply, unless he can prove that the school-house is not kept in

a habitable condition. But in every instance where the subscribers complain of anything else but desertion, they ought to be bound to pay him up to the date of lodging the complaint.

6th. The Committee submit that no Clergyman should be a Trustee of a school, unless he send his child or children to such school; and in regard to religious catechisms, it appears to many of the Committee, that the insisting on the teacher giving lessons therein, is intruding on him a duty more incumbent on the parent; but your Committee are unanimously of opinion, that when children of individuals, of different persuasions, attend the same school, then every pupil ought to be taught the Catechism his parents may furnish; if other subscribers object to that, then the teacher should not teach any religious Catechism.

Your Committee have received a letter from the Secretary of the Society of Schoolmasters, containing a detail of the obstacles to the satisfactory progress of Education, and also of the inconveniences to which Teachers are liable in the prosecution of their calling.

In reference to which, they submit, that the Association appear to have drawn a parallel between their own situation and that of Teachers in Great Britain; that your Committee have to remark, that not only in this Colony, but throughout British North America, the teachers are on a far less stable footing than in the mother country. That this instability is shared in part with many other professions, and that it arises in some measure from causes which do not admit in many instances of a present remedy. The population frequently is not so dense as to afford a constant supply of young people requiring tuition, in such numbers as to be adequate to the maintenance of a teacher; and the circumstance of the subscribers having it entirely in their power to discharge a teacher, at the termination of an engagement, which scarcely ever exceeds one year—and this without alleging, far less proving, any misconduct on his part—and of immediately engaging another, too often gives room to pique or prejudice to operate. In this way, as it were, by a sort of caprice, it has happened that teachers have been repeatedly discharged, others have been engaged in their places; and, after an interval of a year or two, these last have been displaced, to make way for the former. It also frequently happens, that a teacher chooses to change with a view to an increase of his salary, or some other personal advantage. In regard to this, your Committee have to remark, that if the people choose to discharge a teacher without proving that he has done wrong, any other teacher they might engage should for two years receive no aid from the Treasury; and it appears equally necessary, that if a teacher remove without the consent of the subscribers, he should not, as teacher in any other settlement, receive any allowance from the Treasury for the same period of two years; for it is undeniable, that the same diligence bestowed on pupils with whose dispositions and capacities he is acquainted, should be productive of far more advantage to those under his tuition, than in a school where the teacher and pupils are strangers.

Your Committee also take leave to remark, that if by the reduction of expenditure on other branches, double the amount could be afforded by the Legislature for educational purposes, still, in order to afford a fair remuneration, the larger proportion of the salary must be drawn from the subscribers, and that the probable continuance of the same salary for a term of years, and a well grounded confidence that the subscribers will judge his conduct with liberality, and will perform their engagements to him equitably, ought to be, and probably will be found to be, the most powerful stimulants to produce uniform diligence and good conduct on the part of the teacher; and that when he performs his duty in school, and preserves a decent character, no difference in religious persuasion ought to mark him as deserving censure or removal.

One further observation seems necessary, as to the taking measures for one uniform system of school books being provided for all schools under the regulation of the Act. The £100 left with the Secretary of the Board of Education appears to have been of very little service, and should be refunded; and it would appear advisable to ascertain the prices at which Murray's school books, Gray's and Walkinghame's Arithmetics, could be procured from Britain, providing the order went to the extent of £200, which would enable the House to determine, as to whether such purchase should be made from the public funds, and the books purchased deposited with any individual in Charlottetown, to be sold out at such per centage as would cover costs and charges; or if the Legislature should merely prescribe a certain system of books, and should leave the same to be procured by the parents, in the same way as any other article of trade is procured, when there is a steady demand for it.

ALEXANDER RAE, Chairman.
Committee Room, 14th March, 1840.

LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE.
POLICIES will be issued by the Subscriber, in either of the above departments, on the most reasonable terms.
CHARLES YOUNG,
Agent of the
"ETNA" and "ALLIANCE" Insurance Companies.
Charlottetown, Dec. 11, 1838.

AT A GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE,
HEVY Winter Cloths—Pilots, Petershams, Flushings, Buckshins, Tweeds, &c. Flannels, Baizes, Serges, Blankets, Counterpanes, Quilts. A great variety of very superior MERINOS, and other WINTER GOODS, (see Advertisement) will be disposed of on very low terms, if applied for immediately. A few Fur Capes, Tippets, Mantillas, Gloves, &c., at nearly half price.
Also,
Kegs Virginia best No. 1, TOBACCO,
Do. Halifax manufacture, do.
Chests fine CONGOU TEA.

ALEXANDER DAVIDSON,
Brecken's Corner, No. 1, Queen Street.
All Debts due the Subscriber, and contracted previous to the first of May last, will, if not paid before the 10th day of March, 1840, be placed in the hands of an Attorney, for collection.

A. DAVIDSON.
JUST RECEIVED, and for Sale by the Subscriber,
a general assortment, consisting of
440 Packages
British and West India GOODS,
TEAS, FURS, &c. &c.
DAVID WILSON.
Dec. 6, 1839.

TEAS.
50 CHESTS of superior quality, now landing from the
Britannia, from Liverpool, and for sale, for Cash only, by
T. B. TREMAIN.
29th Oct. 1839.

NEW STORE AT GEORGETOWN.

ALEXANDER TAYLOR informs the public that he has commenced business in the store lately occupied by A. Macdonald, Esq., at Georgetown, with a very extensive and well assorted stock of

General Merchandize.

The above stock of Goods was purchased under circumstances, and will be disposed of at prices, which must entitle the proprietor to a share of public patronage, and to its inspection the community are respectfully invited.

Mr. Taylor will give the highest market prices for Country Produce.
Georgetown, 17th December, 1839.

DISSOLUTION OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Co-partnership hitherto existing between the undersigned, was, on the first day of March, instant, dissolved by mutual consent—their term having on that day expired. All persons having demands against the said firm, are requested to render their accounts for adjustment, and all those indebted are requested to make immediate payment to John Hobs.

JOHN HOBS,
DONALD NICOLSON

Charlottetown, 6th March, 1840.

JOHNS HOBBS, Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer, begs leave to acquaint the Inhabitants of Charlottetown, and the public generally, that he is now carrying on the above business, in his Shop in Kent Street, opposite the residence of T. B. Tremain, Esq., where all orders in his line will be thankfully received, and executed with neatness, punctuality, and on moderate terms.
March 6, 1840.

THE Partnership heretofore subsisting between the Subscribers, under the Firm of Parkin & Pleadwell, carrying on business in Charlottetown and at Crapaud, is this day dissolved, by mutual consent. All persons who stand indebted to the said late firm are requested to make immediate payment of the debts due, at Charlottetown, to Josiah Parkin, and at Crapaud, to Thomas Pleadwell. All accounts remaining unpaid, after the Fifteenth instant, will be sued for without distinction.

JOSIAH PARKIN,
THOMAS PLEADWELL.

Charlottetown, April 3d, 1840.

CAUTION.

To the Editor of the Colonial Herald.

SIR;—Having seen in the Colonial Herald of the 20th inst. the Advertisement of the Assignees of the late Henry Winchester, Esq., offering for Sale 18,000 Acres of Land, on Lot or Township No. 54, allow me, through the medium of your paper, to say, that the late Henry Winchester, Esq. had no property on Township No. 54, nor had he ever the actual possession. Actions of Trespass and Ejectment were brought against me, it is true, but what was done in those actions I have not been able to ascertain.—Suffice it to say that after many years' prosecution, I was not able to get one witness brought forward—this is a case of real grievance, and ought to be looked into.

I find on referring to the provision of the Statute of 32 Henry 8, cap 9, that no one shall sell or purchase any pretended right or title to land, unless the vender hath received the profits for one whole year before such grant; or hath been in the actual possession of the land, or of the reversion or remainder, upon pain that both the purchaser and vender shall each forfeit the value of such land to the King and the prosecutor.

ROBERT MEARNS.

Township No. 54, July 27th, 1839.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

TO BE SOLD, by private Contract, an extensive and valuable

FREEHOLD ESTATE,

consisting of nearly

18,000 Acres of Land,

situate in the preferable part of King's County, being contiguous to GEORGETOWN, late the property of HENRY WINCHESTER, deceased, a Bankrupt, and now belonging to his Assignees. Vessels of any burden may go up and down Cardigan River, by which it is bounded on the Southern extremity.

The Estate is delineated on the Plan of the Island, kept in the Plantation Office, Whitehall, and the Surveyor General's Office of the said Island, as Lot or Township (54).

For printed Plans of the Estate, and further particulars, apply at the Offices of Mr. Briggs, 55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, and Mr. Belcher, Official Assignee, King's Arms Yard, London; the Hon. Samuel Cunard, Halifax, Nova Scotia; and James H. Peters, Esq., Charlottetown, in the said Island—to either of whom terms in writing, for the purchase, may be made on or before the 1st of September next.

CAUTION TO LUMBERERS.

ALL Persons found trespassing upon any of the Estates of the Right Honourable the Earl of SELKIRK, in this Island, by cutting timber, or otherwise, will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the Law. Tenants requiring Timber for Farm Buildings, &c. must apply to the subscriber.

W. DOUSE, Land Agent.

CAUTION.

ALL Persons are hereby cautioned against cutting or carrying away Timber, or Wood of any description, from that part of Township No. 43, belonging to the Estate of the late Honorable William Townshend, deceased, if they wish to avoid law and law costs.

CHARLES WORRELL,
Mortgagee in possession.

SWINDLING. TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

WHEREAS a person styling himself DOCTOR WILSON, accompanied by a youth whom he represented as his apprentice, came to East Point, about the beginning of last December, and took a house from Mr. John Macdonald, Retland, with the declared intention of practising in a medical capacity; but after a residence of something more than three months at the East Point, during which time he successfully played off several acts of swindling upon the unsuspecting inhabitants of that quarter, he suddenly disappeared from amongst them, and has not since been heard of by any of the individuals, who, in some degree, have been made the victims of his knavish deceptions: This is to give notice that the subscriber will give Twenty Dollars, as a reward to any person who shall give such information to him (the subscriber) as may lead to the making amenable to justice of the said self-styled Doctor Wilson; and is also further intended to prevent others from suffering from the impositions which, no doubt, he will continue, or attempt, to practise in other quarters. In accordance with these views, the following personal description, and brief statement of the trickery at East Point, of the said impostor, are subjoined.

Doctor Wilson is a young man, apparently about 25 years of age, in height about 5 feet, 9 inches, smooth and full faced, fair complexioned, and in body stout. His swindling he practised upon almost every dealer at East Point. Mr. M'Yane, miller, he swindled out of a quantity of flour, and the subscriber he cheated out of goods to the value of £3 5s. His success at East Point, in all, seems to be to the amount of about £20 or 25. His last attempt upon the subscriber was by a forged Order in the name of James Manley. He, besides, succeeded in borrowing two or three watches, which he carried off. When he left East Point, it was under the pretence of going to Charlottetown for his Medicine Chest. He was taken to Town by one Donald Kennedy, whom, with his horse and sleigh, he had engaged for that purpose. When he reached Charlottetown, he suddenly forsook the poor man, Kennedy, found it convenient "to remember to forget" to pay him, and has not since been heard of. He said he was from St. John, New Brunswick. His pretended apprentice appears to be a worthy disciple of his master. He called himself NEIL M'CALLUM, and said he was from Lot 16. He stayed awhile behind his master, in the end purchased an old mare, borrowed a watch from Mr. Samuel Rose, and went, for anything the subscriber knows, to join his master, and aid him in levying further contributions upon the credulous and unwary.

RONALD BEATON,
Per
DONALD BEATON,

East Point, 23d March, 1840.

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