

KINGSTON, CANADA, TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1842.

No. 15.

THE SPECTRE CARAVAN. From the Dublin Magazine. In the desert, where we rested on the banks of the Nile, and the sands were strewn with the bones of many a victim of the spectre caravan...

THE RATIONAL RIVALS. Stephen Elgrove and Charlotte Fane were on very friendly terms. He was considered and treated in the family as one of themselves. He called Miss Fane, Charlotte; she called Mr. Elgrove, Stephen. They sat each other frequently, and thought of each other. Each preferred the society of the other to that of any one beside; and as they were extremely happy together, so they were somewhat unhappy apart. They talked of much sentiment, and had a growing taste for poetry, music, flowers, and refinement in general.

THE SCHOOL BILL. For the information of the East Oxford School Commissioners, I, at their request, submitted a number of queries to the Superintendent of Education; having received an answer to them, and believing that they contain information which will be interesting to others, I beg to hand you a copy of them for publication in the Herald.

QUESTIONS. 1st. In what manner will the Government Appropriation for Education in this Municipal District be divided? Will it be divided by 103, the number of School Divisions into which the District is divided, or by the number of Schools in actual operation?

ANSWERS. 1st. The apportionment of the School Fund to the several School Divisions, within each Municipal District, is a duty devolved by the School Bill upon the District Council. The data upon which the apportionment is to be made, is clearly stated in the second clause of the 5th section of the Bill, viz.—in proportion to the number of children in each School District, between the ages of five and sixteen. For this year, in proportion to the number of children in each, under sixteen, according to the census of 1841, the Act does not contemplate the subdivision of the apportionment to the District, either by the number of Schools in operation within the District. But, for the present year, it would appear reasonable to divide the money obtained from the Common School Fund among the Schools in actual operation, in proportion to the average number of children attending each School. However, District Councils are left to determine this point.

QUESTIONS. 2d. It does not appear that the School Bill ever contemplated Female Teachers in the Common Schools. The masculine pronoun is invariably used in the Bill when speaking of Teachers. This is clear from the third clause of the 7th section. Besides, if they are to receive any of the public money, they must be examined before the Commissioners as to learning and ability.

QUESTIONS. 3d. The Act does not provide for such cases; but as they may occasionally occur, the plain common-sense view appears to be, that the children in such District, should attend in any other School District they choose, either in that or the immediate adjoining Township;—the School Commissioners in the Township, where the children are, paying to the Teacher or Teachers, whom they attend, the proportionate share of the School Fund, in the same manner as has been given to the Teacher in the vacant District.

QUESTIONS. 4th. It was never intended, by the Act, that any District should be exempted from paying the School Tax, excepting in the case of poverty. District Councils are not only required to apportion the School Fund among the several School Divisions, but also to direct, that an equal sum be raised within their District for the purposes of this Act; whatever, therefore, is the amount apportioned to any School District, from the School Fund, the same is the amount of the School Tax upon that District.

QUESTIONS. 5th. The term, "religious faith," in the 11th section of the Act, in so far as Christians are concerned, applies only to Roman Catholics and Protestants. I believe that Jews might also avail themselves of it.

QUESTIONS. 6th. It does not appear reasonable, that any Act of subdividing into School Divisions should deprive individuals of their personal right in School property formerly acquired. Such claims should be considered as debts due upon the School House, and should be paid by a Tax upon the School District in which the House is situated. But, to do justice in such cases, the School House should be valued, then, as the original cost is to the present value, so is the sum paid, to the money to be returned.

QUESTIONS. 7th. It is scarcely possible that any body of Trustees, under the old School Act, should refuse to give up the titles, &c. belonging to any Public Common School. The law which grants their power has ceased to exist, and with it, their right to hold the property has also ceased. But it is evident that there may be cases, so materially altered by peculiar circumstances, that no general rule can apply to them.

QUESTIONS. 8th. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, GEO. HENDRY, Esq., Woodstock, Brock District.

QUESTIONS. 9th. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, containing queries respecting Common Schools; in reply, I have short answers to the several questions which you have proposed.

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