

THE BRADFORD REPORTER.

ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

"REGARDLESS OF DENUNCIATION FROM ANY QUARTER."

VOL. XXII.—NO. 18.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA., BY E. O. GOODRICH.

TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, October 3, 1861.

Selected Poetry.

THE BEAUTIFUL LAND.

There is a land immortal,
The beautiful land;
Beside the ancient portal
A sentry grimly stands.
He only can undo it,
And open wide this door;
And mortals who pass through it
Are mortal never more.
That glorious land is Heaven,
And death the sentry grim;
The Lion thereof has given
The opening keys to him,
And ransomed spirits, sighing
And sorrowing for sin,
Depass the gate in dying,
And freely enter in.
The sighs are lost in singing,
They're blessed in their tears;
Their journey heavenward winging,
They leave on earth their fears.
Death like an angel cometh;
"We welcome thee," they cry,
Their face with glory beameth—
'Tis life for them to die.

Political.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TOWANDA, Sept. 4, 1861.

DEAR SIR:—The undersigned were appointed by a public meeting of the citizens of Bradford county, a Committee to address you, and inquire if you are willing to serve as a member of the Legislature at the coming session, for the compensation of three dollars per day.

It is not improper for us to say that the present situation of the country, demands the patriotic efforts of all citizens to lessen the expenditure of the Government of Pennsylvania, which is now wholly dependent upon the payment of taxes by the people for its support. And we, in common with those whom we represent, know of no better way to begin the reform so urgently demanded by the exigency of the times, than for the people to exact of men soliciting their suffrage for public office, an agreement beforehand as to the measure of compensation which they are to give for such public services.

From the organization of Pennsylvania as a State Government, up to the year 1855, the pay of Representatives to the State Legislature did not exceed three dollars per day, for the first one hundred days, and thereafter, one dollar and fifty cents per day for such time as its sitting was prolonged.

Never were the resources of the people for the payment of taxes, so cramped and reduced as at present, and we think that a thorough union of all the voters in support of men who will respond patriotically to a reduction of all Governmental employment, is the proper way to begin the reform so urgently demanded.

Inasmuch as your answer will influence a large class of your fellow citizens, we send this letter by the hands of F. G. CONRYS, who will receive your answer, and through us give it to the public.

You will receive with this brief letter, the printed proceedings of the public meeting which authorized us to act. And we desire to say in conclusion that your agreement to serve the people as a member of the Legislature for the old compensation of three dollars per day, together with your pledge to do all in your power to reduce the expenses of the State Government by a reduction of all salaries of office holders to the standard fixed by the law passed in 1842, the period when the State taxes were authorized to be collected from the people, will be a patriotic act, and will most surely tender you to the people.

We are, Very Respectfully,
Your obedient Servants,
Y. E. POLLETT, FRANK SMITH,
H. VANDYKE, A. E. MENARDI,
A. P. WOLCOTT, S. CLARK,
D. HARKINS, W. R. STORRS,
ALFRED GORE, ALEX. ENNIS,
WM. PIERCE, Comtee.

LE ROY, Sept. 18th, 1861.
GENTLEMEN:—Yours of the 4th inst., I have today received by the hands of F. G. CONRYS, Esq.

The contents of your letter have led me to examine with some care, the proceedings of the public meeting, by which your committee was appointed and authorized to act, and in view of what is set forth in your resolutions.—I must, before I reply directly to your inquiries, notice some facts, bearing upon the general questions under consideration, which are the interests of our country and our relation to those interests.

Since the opening of the present rebellion, which the Government of the United States is now struggling to suppress, I have been disposed to remain silent concerning past political differences, and the wrongs of past political parties. I have been satisfied with beholding patriotic men of all parties, casting off the shackles of party and donning the habiliments of war, to rush arm in arm to the defence of our Capitol and the sacred institutions of civil and religious liberty for which our fathers so nobly contended.

Our Government needs and deserves the sympathy and support of all who are enjoying the benefits of its protection, and in this hour of our nation's peril, it is incumbent upon every good citizen to manifest that sympathy, and be ready to render that support, instead of hurling undesired censure, as was done in the resolutions of the Democratic Mass Meet-

ing which you have the honor to represent, and those "noble Union men of the South" who are raising the Maccabean cry "come over and help us," must feel their courage fail, when they hear from their friends in the north, that "corruption, extravagance, incompetency and favoritism prevails in the Administration of the war department of the Federal Government."

From the proceedings of your meeting, Gentlemen, as shown in your resolutions, it might be inferred that you were strangers to the passing history of our country; or that you had forgotten this civil war under which our country is struggling, had been planned by leading political aspirants of the Democratic party at the South, and that they had taken advantage of the weakness and imbecility of your party chief, of the last administration, and while acting in the capacity of his cabinet ministers, had robbed the national treasury, taken possession of Forts, Arsenals, arms and munitions of war, and handed them over to the keeping of traitors, and had dispersed our noble navy over distant seas that it might not come to the rescue of the Government in its hour of need.

Yet, notwithstanding all this, and a hundred fold more in the same political connection, your public meeting, by its first resolution, with a strange infatuated devotion to your ancient name, calls the attention of the people to the Democratic party as having preserved an almost immaculate purity, while many of its members in the different capacities of public office, as President, Cabinet Ministers, Governors of States, Representatives of the people in the National and State Legislatures, and officers of the Army and Navy, having long been planning the overthrow of the Government, and the subjugation of the people to a military despotism, at any moment when, upon the democratic principle upon which our Government was founded, they should lose the control of the Government by an election; and still you presume to charge the rebellion to misguided sectionalism, engendered by fanatical agitators, North and South.

But, in spite of all your efforts to surround the democratic party with a halo of glory as having, as you assert, "at all times zealously contended for the administration of the general government within its constitutional limits," and, though, on that ground, and because you say there has been a departure from its doctrines, and a disregard of its warnings and advice, "that it is in no respect responsible for the calamities that have resulted," that is for the treason.—But say what you will to escape from, or shift off the responsibility, the last democratic administration will appear on the page of history as the most corrupt, profligate and unprincipled administration that ever cursed a civilized people on the face of the earth.

And now, I ask, where was the Democratic party when the plan for the overthrow of our Union was being carried forward by leading democrats in Mr. Buchanan's cabinet? When the English Government was looking quietly on, expecting to see the scheme consummated, because it was plain to the sagacious eyes of English statesmen, that if the Democratic party, then being represented by the administration at Washington, was not co-operating, it was at least consenting to the means that were being employed for the overthrow of the Union.

But there is a bright spot visible amid the darkness of this political horizon, that like the oases in the desert to the traveler cheers the sinking spirits of the anxious patriots; it is the grand truth, that devotion to the principles of our free Government is fresh in the hearts of the people; and when the thunders of the traitor's cannon that poured its torrents of shot and shell into the midst of that little band of patriotic men that surrounded the gallant Anderson in Sumter, was heard reverberating along the valleys, and over the mountains of the free and peace-loving citizens of the North, the whole northern horizon was, as it were, illuminated as by a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, by the cheering news as it flew over the land on the electric wires, and flashed upon a million of anxious hearts, that the people almost without respect to party, were true to the great principles of constitutional and free Government, and that they would not bow down to the leaders of a party, that by perjury, treason and rebellion, hoped to triumph, as the propagandists of slavery, over human freedom.

Your second resolution says, "we do not believe that this war should be waged for conquest or subjugation, though it is well known that the war is to be prosecuted by our Government to conquer treason and subjugate traitors. You say, you would preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several states unimpaired; and thus while you are opposed to the prosecution of the war for the first prominent purpose for which it was undertaken by the Government, you seem to be the most anxious for the equality, dignity and rights of the seceded States—truly, the dignity of treason!

In your fifth resolution, you place rebellion and usurpation in a relation that must give the intelligent reader to understand that you refer to those measures of the Government which were indispensable to its preservation, as the usurpation to which you are opposed. And while you have not one word of commendation for any act of the Government, you utter your unqualified condemnation of the war department of both the State and nation.—From these facts I think I may justly infer that you are, at this time, particularly anxious to divert the attention of the people from the great question of our national interests, to that of the salaries of officers, if by such means you may secure the election of those "suitable candidates" of your own selection, who would sympathize with you in your own unqualified condemnation of the War Department, and would therefore be disposed to embarrass and cripple its energies.

You ask if I am willing to serve as a member of the Legislature, at the coming session, for the old compensation of three dollars per day. I am willing to serve for whatever may

be the legal compensation, be it less or more. The present salary, however, as it was fixed by the democratic Legislature of 1858, I think is too high.

You enquire if I am willing to engage or pledge myself to do all in my power to reduce all salaries to the standard of 1842. I have not examined that standard in all its details. I believe, however, it was about that time that the chairman of your committee held the office of Superintendent on the N. B. Canal, with a salary of about eleven hundred dollars, and that for an exchange of the city funds, placed in his hands to pay the monthly estimates to contractors, for the depreciating currency of a failing bank, he received about three times the amount of his legal salary—making an aggregate of about four thousand dollars a year for the service of attending one day in a month to settle the monthly estimates on the works.—If that is a fair specimen of the standard of 1842, I am not in favor of it, and I desire to ask if the heart of your chairman was at this time so deeply imbued with devotion to the pecuniary interests of the people, that he returned any portion of his salary into the State Treasury. It is true that this is not exactly to the purpose, only as showing with what ill grace this plea for economy in salaries comes from those who have fattened at the public crib.

And now, in conclusion, I will say that I have no pledges to make, and that I should regard it as an indignity offered to the Convention that so kindly placed me in nomination as their candidate for Representative, and a forfeiture of their generous confidence, if I should solicit your suffrages upon any such degrading terms, or upon any terms whatever, while you hold the language contained in your resolutions.

A man, when a candidate for office, should stand before the people, relying upon his reputation and principles for a passport to public favor. Should I be elected to serve in the coming session of the Legislature, I shall hold myself under obligation as a Representative and servant of the people, to obey their known will, whether expressed by petition or otherwise.

My own convictions are, that in the present depressed condition of our State and national finances, economy and retrenchment, are demanded by the sentiments of the people, and by every consideration of right and justice.

But when your mass meeting, as I believe, from sinister motives, solicits me to assume what I should regard as a degrading position, and that, too, after you have commended my public acts, I should be untrue to myself and the common rights of manhood, if I should fail, or entirely neglect to hold up to the light the facts attending our public relation.

I am very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
C. T. BLISS.

STANDING STONE, Sept. 20, 1861.
COL. VICTOR E. POLLETT, FRANK SMITH, Esq., and others, Committee, &c.

GENTLEMEN:—Your communication, dated at Towanda, September 4, 1861, together with the printed proceedings of a Democratic Mass Meeting of Bradford county, which authorized you to act, was presented to me by F. G. CONRYS, Esq., at Towanda, last evening, in which you make inquiry of me whether "I am willing to serve as a member of the Legislature, at the coming session, at the old compensation of three dollars per day"—and you also "desire to say, in conclusion, that my agreement to serve the people as a Member of the Legislature, for the old compensation of three dollars per day, together with my pledge to do all in my power to reduce the expenses of the State Government, by a reduction of all salaries of office holders to the standard fixed by the law passed in 1842," and that "my answer will influence a large class of my fellow-citizens," and therefore you will "give it to the public."

In reply to which, I would say, that if the old law, which fixed the compensation of all the Members of the Legislature at three dollars per day, were now in force, I would be willing to serve for the old compensation of three dollars per day, but as the old law is no longer in force, and as the law of 1858, fixes the salaries of all Members of the Legislature at \$700 for the session, inasmuch as I had nothing to do with the passage of the law of 1858, but most certainly would have opposed its passage, if I had been in a position to do so, I cannot believe there are any very considerable number of my fellow-citizens, in Bradford county, that would desire to have me, and *me alone*, serve in the next Legislature for less than half the sum that all others of the one hundred and thirty-three Members are by law to receive for the same service from the same common Treasury of the Commonwealth, and more particularly so under the circumstances of the case presented. If I were so far to forget my own self respect as to make any such improper agreement with an opposite party in politics from my own, for the express purpose of "influencing a large class of my fellow citizens" to vote for me, then I would lose, as I ought, the confidence and esteem of all good and right minded men, no matter to what political party they may belong, and thus, if elected to serve in the next Legislature, such an agreement could only serve to lessen my influence and *my* usefulness to that body. If I were capable of making such a humiliating agreement as you propose, still I find another serious difficulty in my way. You inform me that "you, in connection with those whom you represent, know of no better way to begin the reform, so urgently demanded by the exigencies of the times, but for the people to exact from men soliciting their suffrages for public office, an agreement beforehand, as to the measure of compensation which they are to give for such public service."

This declaration of yours, explained, as it seems to be, by the light thrown on it in one of the resolutions adopted by the meeting which authorized you to act in this matter, in which it is resolved that "all salaries and daily pay which has been increased in the reckless extravagance of later Legislation should be restored to former rates, and we (you) pledge ourselves (yourselves) to oppose all candidates for public place, who will not agree to such reduction at once, without even Legislative intervention." Now it would seem, unless I will agree, at once, to a principle so strange, and new even in democratic circles, you and the meeting whom you represent are pledged to oppose me. You will allow me to say that after giving the resolutions of your meeting a very attentive, and, as I think, candid perusal, and after having noticed the frequency with which you refer to the Constitution and the determination which you express of a strict compliance with "all its provisions," and having no doubt but that the State as well as the National Constitution is included, I was at a loss to see how such a policy as here proposed, could be deemed consistent with a strict construction of the 18th section of the 1st Article of the Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania, which especially declares "that the Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the Treasury of the Commonwealth," and yet, with all your attachment and reverence for the Constitution, you "pledge yourselves to oppose all candidates for public place, who will not agree to have the measure of their compensation fixed by your standard instead of the Legislature, as expressly required by the Constitution, as above quoted"—notwithstanding the very able argument contained in your letter, in favor of this new mode of years for regulating salaries, viz: "For the people to exact of men soliciting their suffrages for public office, an agreement, beforehand, as to the measure of compensation they are to give for such public service." I should think it would be better to abide by the old and constitutional way, viz: "That it should be ascertained by law," by many obvious reasons. First, among the many good reasons that I can see for it, is, by the old constitutional way perfect uniformity and equality can be attained, while in the new way, that you propose, for each County to fix a standard for themselves, we are liable to have as many different standards or variations in compensation for the same office as there are counties in the Commonwealth. For clearly, if a Democratic Mass Meeting in Bradford county has a right to fix the salaries of their Members of the Legislature, "without legislative intervention," then the Democrats of every other county in the State should have the same right, and when it is once conceded that the Democratic Mass Meetings have such extraordinary rights awarded to them, other political parties would claim to have equal rights, and it would be difficult to form any idea to what extent this diversity of measure of compensation thus "agreed on by the people beforehand, without legislative intervention," would go. It might happen that the compensation thus agreed on, in this new way, would vary from one to twenty dollars per day, or from one hundred to two thousand dollars for a session of the Legislature, and such diversity and uncertainty as this new mode of fixing salaries would lead to, certainly would be very unfair as well as unwise, therefore, I must say it would be vastly better to abide by the old and constitutional way, to allow the Legislature to intervene and "ascertain the compensation for the services of Members of the Legislature," agreeable to the terms of the Constitution.

In answer to the inquiry whether I will pledge myself to do all in my power to reduce the expenses of the State Government by a reduction of all salaries of officeholders to the standard fixed by the law passed in 1842, I have simply to say, that I have a very strong aversion to pledging myself to do or not to do a particular thing to an opposite party in politics, on the eve of an election, for the express purpose of obtaining their votes. I think such a proceeding would be decidedly improper, therefore I cannot consent to do it, and thus having candidly and truthfully, as I believe, answered all that you have required me to reply to, perhaps, strictly speaking, I should close my reply at this point, yet, I cannot refrain from saying, before I do so, that I am at a loss to know how you reconcile the idea of perfect purity for Democrats and the Democratic party, which seems to run through the resolutions passed at your meeting, with the sweeping denunciation therein contained against "the reckless extravagance of" "later legislation," which has increased "all salaries and daily pay." One would be led to suppose by this that you had forgotten that the State Administration, as well as both branches of the Legislature in 1858, when this most obnoxious legislation, of which I think you most justly complain, were all Democratic. I, therefore, have no hesitation in saying, if I am elected to serve in the next Legislature, if there shall be a general movement of the people to remedy the wrongs thus inflicted on the taxpayers of this Commonwealth, of which I think the people have a right to complain, it will give me great pleasure to be instrumental in carrying out their will, as I recognize, in the fullest and most enlarged sense, the duty of a Representative to carry out the views and wishes of his constituents. I will further add, that while I differ, and, perhaps most radically from you and the meeting who have authorized you to act, in many things, upon which you have been pleased to express your sentiments, yet, the sentiments expressed in that resolution, passed by your meeting, in which you pay a tribute of respect to the memory of the late STEPHEN A. DOUGLASS, meets my entire approval. I give cheerful and entire accord to the sentiment, viz: "The Government is paramount to all other political questions, and that there can be but two sides to this controversy, every man must be on the side of the United States or against it; there can be no neutrals in this war, there can be none but patriots and traitors." This sentiment meets my fullest and warmest commendation. Still, I must add, that I did feel some regret after an utterance of so noble and patriotic a sentiment as herein expressed, that I looked in vain through the numerous and somewhat lengthy resolutions, passed at your meeting, for a single word of approval for the United

States Government, which is now struggling with this most formidable and wicked rebellion, while you have been so unsparing in your denunciation of some of its Departments, and seemingly distrustful whether it was not waging this war for the purpose of subjugation. Has it waged war with any body but armed rebels, and is it not desirable to have them subjugated to an obedience to the laws and the Constitution? In conclusion, I am happy to say, that I most heartily thank you and the meeting, whose agents you are, for their kind approval of what they are pleased to denominate the "proper and patriotic stand taken by me" on the subject of the Repeal of the Tonnage Tax, and the corrupt Release of the State Securities to the Sunbury & Erie Railroad," as I do not feel that I have done anything but what was "proper" and what the people had a right to require and expect from all their Members of the Legislature on that occasion—neither do I think this the time or place to discuss the merits of those questions. The time has passed; the State has transferred all her improvements to those two great corporations, which cost the people at least forty millions of dollars, the public debt, which was incurred to make them, is left for the people to pay. These are facts which stand out plain, so apparent and palpable that none can deny them, and, in my judgment, all who have aided or abetted in these most stupendous frauds upon the tax-payers of this Commonwealth, have incurred most fearful responsibilities.

I am your most obedient servant,
H. W. TRACY.

Luther's Residence at Wittenberg.

Ascending a rough, neglected stairway, I entered the room in which Luther resided after his marriage. His old furniture is still there. There is the table on which he wrote—the chair on which he sat—a kind of double seat, where he used to read and converse with his Catharina—all chipped and sliced by Vandal travellers. There, too, is the old large stove, whose plates are covered with figures of the four evangelists, cast after devices by Luther himself. That, fortunately, cannot be cut into chips. A little case, protected by glass doors, contains a number of relics, such as specimens of his handwriting, some old documents and embroidery wrought by his wife. There are fragments of a drinking glass, said to have been broken by Peter the Great. When a young man he visited Wittenberg, and desired to carry away the glass, but being refused permission, he dashed it in pieces on the floor—an act worthy of this haughty and passionate Czar.

There, too, is a beer mug of large size, which shows that three centuries have not changed the German's devotion to his favorite beverage. Over the door is a scroll in chalk, protected by glass, which may be guessed to be "Peter," and a tradition says written by the Czar. If so, the scribbling propensity is not confined to Americans. In an adjoining room is the desk from which the great Reformer lectured. On its front are four circular paintings, representing the four faculties of the university—law, medicine, theology, and philosophy. The latter contains a fine female figure, which my guide said is a likeness of Catharina, showing alike Luther's taste and affection. On the walls are portraits by Cranach. There is also a cast taken after Luther's death.

I was looking at these monuments, and asked where is Luther's when my guide pointed to a plain stone at my feet, which was a part of the floor, whereon was the name of Luther. Removing this there is a neat bronze tablet, with his name, and date of birth and death. Such is the simple monument; a similar one marks where Melancthon sleeps.—Bishop Simpson's Letters.

LITTLE TROUBLES.—What are styled the "little troubles of life," are the hardest to bear. One can nerve himself up with heroism for a great trial, but the mosquito-like annoyances of every hour, for when unfeeling natures have no word of sympathy, and which they cannot understand so long as the sufferer has something to eat, are what fills churchyards and make so many homes desolate. Happy are those whose "little" troubles find that sympathy out of which grows strength to endure, and whose hearts are ground to powder by the rough heel of indifference and insensibility.

During the campaign of 1814 a young Norman conscript was standing at support arms. "Why don't you fire?" said his lieutenant, furiously.
"Why should I fire on these men?" replied the greenhorn. "They haven't done anything to me."
At this moment his comrade fell dead beside him.
"Lieutenant," said the rustic, beginning to wake up, "I believe those chaps are firing bullets."
"Of course they are, you booby, and they will shoot you."
With that the conscript began to blaze away, and fought like a tiger until the close of the action.

A young gentleman who was in the act of popping the question to a young lady, was interrupted by her father entering the room, who inquired what they were about.

"Oh," replied the fair one, "Mr. — was explaining the question of annexation to me, and he is for immediate annexation."
"Well," said papa, "if you agree on a treaty I'll ratify it."

MORAL EVIL.—We remember once being in company with a venerable and distinguished clergyman, when a forward young man asked him, "Pray, sir, do you think of the entrance of moral evil?" "I know nothing about it.—I know there is a remedy for it; and there, sir, all my knowledge begins, and all my knowledge ends."

Educational Department.

Teachers' Examinations.

The annual examinations of teachers for this county, will be held in accordance with the following programme. In three or four instances two townships have been put together, in order that the inspections may all be held before the winter schools commence. Examinations will commence precisely at 10 o'clock a. m., none will be inspected who do not come in before 11, unless the delay be unavoidable. Each teacher must bring Sander's fifth Reader, one sheet of fools cap paper, pen, ink and led pencil. All who intend to teach during the year must come forward and be examined.—None will be examined privately unless an attendance upon the examination was impossible, old—certificates will not be renewed.—Directors and others interested, are earnestly invited to attend.

Oct. 15—Wells & South Creek, Bowley School House,
" 16—Columbia, An teaville
" 17—Springfield, Centre School House,
" 18—Ridgely, Pennsylvania,
" 19—Smithfield, Centre School House,
" 20—Troy & Armenia, Boro' School House,
" 21—Canton, Corners School House,
" 22—Franklin & LeRoy, Chapel's School House,
" 23—Granville, Taylor's School House,
" 24—Burlington, Boro' School House,
" 25—Monroe, Borough School House,
" 26—Wysock & Standing Stone, Myersburgh,
" 29—Rome, Boro' School House,
" 30—Orwell, Hill School House,
" 31—Pike, Lehighville
Nov. 1—Herrick, Landon School House,
" 2—Wyalusing, Merryll,
" 4—Tuscarora, Ackley School House,
" 5—Terry & Wilmot, Ferrytown,
" 6—Albany & Overton, Browns School House,
" 7—Towanda, Boro' School House,
" 11—Asylum, Frenchtown Lower School House,
" 12—Shoshonequin & Uster, Knapp School House,
" 13—Athens, Boro' School House,
" 14—Litchfield, Centre School House,
" 15—Windham, Kaykendall School House,
" 16—Warren, Bowers School House.
C. E. COBURN,
Superintendent.

[From the School Journal, for September.]

Answers to Teachers.

QUESTION:—In the new edition of Teacher's Monthly reports, sent out by the Department, it is stated that the Lunar month will in all cases be regarded as the school month; and columns are inserted for the Saturdays. How many days are to constitute the teacher's month? It would appear from the new monthly reports, as if it was to be twenty-four!—Teacher in Luzerne co.

ANSWER:—Though the Lunar month of 28 days will hereafter be taken as the school month, it by no means follows that the schools must be kept open every week-day in such month. The Department has no authority to say how many days in each week or month the schools are to be open. That is to be a matter of contract between the directors and the teachers. The Saturday columns were put into the reports to suit the various practices which prevail on this point. In some districts the schools are closed on Saturdays, and this is the better practice; in others they are closed on alternate Saturdays; while in others again, they are open every Saturday forenoon. But the insertion of a column for Saturdays by no means indicates a preference, much less a decision, of this Department, in favor of Saturday schools.

QUESTION:—Our County Superintendent has published that he will not examine teachers in other townships than those in which they expect to teach. Is he not bound to examine all who apply, and at any of the public examinations which they may choose to attend?—Teacher in Westmoreland co.

ANSWER:—He is not; and for very obvious and sufficient reasons, both of law and expediency. In the first place, he is only to examine persons who are applicants for employment. This is obvious from the first five lines of the 41st section of the school law of 1854. The application is to be to the Directors; and as they do not examine, but only employ,—the application is really for employment, and not merely for examination.

In the second place, examination is to be in the presence of that Board to whom application for employment is first made in that year by the express words of the same section.—And the object of this is to enable the employing directors to judge, by hearing the examination, of the appearance, manner, language, power of imparting knowledge, and the general qualifications of each of the persons examined, so that they may employ the most suitable.

In the third place, it is no infringement of the rights of any, to enforce this rule. It is true, an applicant may assert that he does not desire to teach at all for the present, but only desires admission to the profession. The reply is, that it is not the business of a County Superintendent to admit generally to the profession,—that is the province of the State Normal school; his sphere in this respect is a limited one; and is only that of examining, in the presence of employing directors and for their information and satisfaction, those who apply to them for employment. The exceptions to this rule are those of the holders of Professional county certificates, and of the State certificates; the former being supposed to have been issued after due examination, in the presence of the then employing directors; and the possession of both being evidence of full qualification.

In the fourth place, a most injurious and inconvenient practice has, in some places, grown up, which the strict enforcement of the law as it is, will extirpate: It is that of a teacher accompanying the County Superintendent during a tour of examination, till he obtains some general idea of his questions, and glean a little knowledge from the answers of other teachers; and then coming forward, at the end of the season and in a distant district, and obtaining a low certificate, which he carries back to the district he originally desired applying in;—thus violating the law and depriving the directors he applies to of one of their rights.

For these and other reasons, the course adopted by the Superintendent of Westmoreland, is legal and proper, and in conformity with the instructions of this Department.