ADVERTISEMENTS.

# COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM.

AN ACT

To consulidate and amend the several acts rela tive to a General System of Education by COMMON SCHOOLS.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That every township, borough or ward in this commonwealth, not within the city and incorporated districts of the county of Philadelphia, shall constitute a school district: Provided, That any borough which is, or may be connected with a township, in the assessment of county rates and levies, shall, with the said town-

ship, form a district. SECT. 2. Annually at the same time and place that elections are held for supervisors and constables, and in wards and boroughs, at the time and place of the borough elections, and in like manner, two persons shall be elected school directors for each district, whose term of office shall be three yearsand the persons so elected shall be notified thereof within five days, by the judges of said election: Provided, That in districts where directors have not been elected, or in new districts, which may be established by the division of a township or otherwise, six directors shall be elected in such districts at the first election, two to serve one year, two to serve two years, und two to serve three

Secr. 3. Within twenty days after said election, each board of school directors shall organize by choosing a President and Secretery out of their own body; they shall also appoint a treasurer for the district, and shall require him to give sufficient security to insure the faithful performance of his duty; they shall also have power to fill any vacancy which may occur in their board, by death, resignation, or otherwise, until the next election, when such vacancy shall be filled by electing a person to supply the same.

SECT. 4. The school directors of every school district which has adopted the common school system, or which may hereafter adopt the same, shall annually, on or before the first Monday of May, authorize to be levied such an amount of tax on said district as they may think necessary for school purposes; not less than equal to, nor more than troble the amount which the district is en titled to receive out of the annual state appropriation: and, for the purpose of raising any additional sum that may be deemed necessary, meetings shall be called of the taxable inhabitants of the township or district, by the directors, on the first Tuesday of May annually; notice of the time and place of holding such meetings being first given by at least six advertisements put up at the most public places in such township or district, for the space of two weeks, a maiority of whom shall decide by ballot, how much and what additional sum shall be raised for school purposes; and any additional sum so authorized, shall be assessed and collected, paid over and distributed in the same manner that is provided for by this act.

Secr. 5. The assessor of every ward township or borough, composing any school district as aforesaid, shall upon demand, furnish the school directors of the district with a correct copy of the last adjusted valuation in the same for county purposes; whereupon the board of directors shall, on or before the first day of June, annually, proceed to levy and apportion the said tax as follows, viz:

1. On each male taxable inhabitant of the district, a poll tax at their discretion, not

exceeding fifty cents.

2. On all offices and posts of profit, professions, trades and occupations, and on all single freemen above the age of twenty one years who do not follow any occupation, not exceeding the amount assessed on the same for county purposes.

3. On personal property which was made taxable by an act entitled "An act assessing a tax on personal property, to be collected with the county rates and levies, for the use of the commonwealth," passed the twentyfifth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one; and the said property shall continue to be assessed according to the provisions of said act, and upon all property now taxable for county purposes:-Provided, That said act taxing personal property, shall not be so construed as to make widows dower liable to the payment of taxes, and upon all property now taxable

for county purposes. Secr. 6. When the school tax is so levied and apportioned in any district, the secretacorrect duplicate of the same, and the president of the board shall issue his warrant, or borough collector, or to some other suitahim sufficient security to insure the faithful rectors of each district shall have the right, at all times, to make such abatement or exunseated lands, &c. as to them shall appear | manner as he may think expedient. just and reasonable; and the secretary of the board shall enter in a book or books, to be with the reasons for such exonerations.

SECT. 7. The said collectors shall have levies have to enforce the payment of the as he shall deem it expedient to communisame, and shall receive the like compensa- cate. tion for his services, from time to time, as the said tax is collected; the collector of the district shall pay the amount over to the district treasurer, and shall settle up his duplicate on or before the time fixed upon in the warrant of the president: Provided, That, If the tax so levied on unscated lands shall

manner as the collection of the taxes on un- poses. seated lands is enforced, when assessed for

following duties in addition to those above and other matters appertaining to the execuspecified.

1. They shall, if they deem it expedient, divide the district into sub-districts, and shall establish a sufficient number of common schools for the education of every individual above the age of four years, in the district, who may apply, either in person or by his or her parents, guardian or next friend, for admission and instruction, and shall keep the said schools open at least six months in system, may be entitled to receive out of the every year, if they shall have funds for that

2. They shall cause suitable buildings to be erected rented or hired for school houses, and supply the schools with fuel.

3. They shall exercise a general supervition over the schools of their respective districts, and fix the amount of the salaries of she teachers.

4. They shall pay all necessary expenses of the schools, by orders drawn on the district treasurer, signed by the president, and countersigned by the secretary of the board.

more of their number, shall visit every school within their district, at least once in every month, and shall cause the result of by appropriated out of the school fund for said visit to be entered on the minutes of the the year one thousand eight hundred and

6. Whenever it may be necessary or convenient to establish one or more schools out of two or more adjoining districts, the school wealth, and the city and county of Philadeldirectors of such adjoining districts may establish and regulate such schools; and the expense thereof shall be paid, as may be a drafts of the superintendent of common greed upon, by the directors of said adjoin-

first Monday in January, make a report to act to establish a general system of educathe superintendent of the common schools, tion by common schools," passed the first setting forth the number and situation of the day of April, one thousand eight hundred schools in their district; the character of the and thirty-four, and the supplement thereto, teachers, designating whether they are and the balance of the first appropriation of males or females; the number and sex of one hundred thousand dollars, which shall the scholars admitted during the year; the remain undrawn on the first day of Novembranches of study taught in each school; the ber, one thousand eight hundred and thirtynumber of months in the year during which seven, and all subsequent balances, shall reeach school shall have been kept open; the main in the treasury, and accumulate for the cost of the school houses, either for building, use of such district or districts entitled to and reasonable: Provided, That such school Morcover Dr. Sleigh will add copious critical, renting, or repairing; and all other expenses the same, for any term not exceeding one which may have been incurred in maintain- | year from and after the first day of Noveming the schools of their districts; together with such other information as may be bene- seven; and all such undrawn balance reficial in forming a just estimate of the value of common schouls.

receive any pay or emolument whatever for fund; and in like manner the undrawn balhis services, as such; but he shall be ex- ance of subsequent appropriations shall be empt during the time he continues to per- repaid into the said fund annually thereafter. form the duties of his office, from military duty or from serving in any borough or township office.

9. When the school directors shall have divided the several districts into sub-districts of this act, he shall certify the same, stating for separate schools, the voters of each sub- the amount of such tax, and also, the name listrict may meet on notice being given for l four voters of said district, and choose a committee of three of their number, to serve the whole amount such district is entitled to for one year, who shall have the appoint- receive. ment of the teacher for such sub-district.

10. The directors of each school district shall have the power to direct in which of the schools, so established in pursuance of this act, the individuals in said district who may be admitted shall be instructed.

11. In case the school directors deem is inexpedient to divide their district into subdistricts, or in case the voters of any subdistrict, shall neglect or refuse to elect a committee, as provided for in the ninth article of this section, then the duties of said committee shall devolve on and be performed by the school directors.

SECT. 9. The district treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the district, whether the sume be derived from appro-priations by the date, district taxes, private donations, or otherwise, and shall pay out the same on orders drawn by the president and attested by the secretary of the board of directors, by order of the board, and his accounts shall be audited and adjusted as accounts of townships and boroughs are directed by law to be audited and adjusted.

SECT. 10. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall be Superintendent of the Common Schools, and shall perform the fol-

lowing duties: 1. Prepare suitable blank forms, with nery of the board of directors shall make out a cessary instructions, for making district reports, and for conducting the necessary proceedings under his jurisdiction; and shall with the duplicate aforesaid, to the township cause the same, together with all such information as he may deem necessary for the ble person residing within the district, to further improvement of the schools, to be collect the said tax, and shall require from transmitted to the commissioners of the several counties for distribution among the same to the county commissioners of the discharge of his duty; and the board of di- several boards of directors, at the same time and in the same manner as the pamphlet laws of this commonwealth are transmitted, ted the common school system, may, if they every county; and it shall be the duty of onerations for mistakes, indigent persons, and at such other times and in such other

2. Prepare and submit an annual report to the legislature, containing a statement of kept by him for that purpose, the names of the condition of the common schools thro'all persons so abated or exonerated, together out the commonwealth; estimates and expenditures; plans for the improvement of the common school system; and all such like vowers to enforce the payment of the matters relating to his office of superintenschool tax as collectors of county rates and dent and the concerns of common schools,

3. He shall sign all orders on the State Treasurer for the payment of moneys to the of this section, and, should there be a majoritreasurers of the several school districts; but ty of the taxable inhabitants of said district Philadelphia, entitled "An act to provide no order shall be drawn by him in favor of "no school," the secretary shall for the education of children at the public any district treasurer until he shall have certify the same to the county commissioners been furnished with a certificate, signed by of the proper county, and the operation of the president and attested by the secretary not be voluntarily paid by the owner or of the board of directors of the district, that | ded. in said district, until such time as a owners thereof, the district collector shall a sum, at least equal to the amount of the majority of the citizens shall otherwise decontily the same to the county continission. district's share of the annual state appro- cide. manual the said county commissioners shall priation of two hundred thousand dollars, has

enforce the collection thereof in the same | been levied on said district for school pur-

5. He shall annually, in the month of each county a statement of the amount that trustees. every district therein that has, and every district that has not adopted the common school annual appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars; and the commissioners shall immediately cause such statement to be published three times in one or more newspapers printed in said county: Provided, That nothing in any section of this act shall be so construed as to deprive the districts which have not adopted the common school system of their due proportion of the common school fund, until after the first of November, eighteen hundred and thirty-eight.

Secr. 11. One hundred thousand dollars in addition to the one hundred thousand dol-5. Each board of directors, by one or lars payable by the bank of the U. States, both of which sums to be accounted and distributed as the state appropriation are herethirty seven, and a like sum annually thereafter; which shall be apportioned among the several school districts of this commonphia, according to their number of taxable inhabitants, but shall only be subject to the schools, agreeably to the provisions of this act: Provided, That the balance of appro-7. They shall annually, on or before the priations made under the act entitled, "An ber, one thousand eight hundred and thirtymaining in the treasury on the first day of November one thousand eight hundred and 8. No school director or treasurer shall thirty-eight, shall be repaid into the school

> SECT. 12. As soon as the president of the board of directors of any school district shall have issued his warrant for the collection of a school tax, agreeably to the sixth section of the district treasurer, to the superintendraw his warrant on the State Treasurer for

SECT. 13. The school directors of every school district, which shall not have adopted the common school system, shall annually call a meeting of the qualified citizens of the district, on the day of election for directors, to be held at the usual place of holding township, ward or borough elections, by at least six advertisements put up in the most public places in the district, for the space of two weeks: And the said meeting shall be organized between the hours of one and four clock, P. M. on the said day, by appointing a president, and the secretary of the board of directors, or in his absence some other member of the board, shall perform the duties of secretary to the meeting.-When the meeting is so organized, the question of establishing the common school system in the district, shall be decided by ballot, and the said president and secretary shall perform the duties of tellers to the meeting, and shall receive from every person residing within the district qualified to vote at the general election, a written or printed ticket, containing the word "school," or the words "no school," and shall continue without interruption or adjournment until the electors who shall come to the said election shall have opportunity to give in their respective votes; and the said tellers shall count the votes, and if a majority shall contain the word "school," the secretary shall certify the same to the board of directors of the district, who shall proceed to establish schools therein agreeably to the provisions of this act, but if a majority shall contain the words "no school," the secretary shall certify the proper county: And the school directors of | printed copy of this attached thereto, to be every school district which may have adop- addressed to the county commissioners of deem it expedient, call a meeting of the every commissioner aforesaid to cause the qualified citizens of the district, on the first same to be published in one and not more eight hundred and thirty-seven, and on the three successive weeks, and the expense appended. same day in every third year thereafter, to thereof shall be defrayed out of the county be held at the usual place of holding town. treasury; and the said superintendent shall ship, ward or borough elections; at which also cause this act to be printed in pamphlet time and places an election shall be held, to form, and shall forward to the county com first of July, to take their ground, before we decide by ballot, whether the common school missioners of each county a number of copies make our CHIEF PECULIANITY known, as we do system shall be continued or not. The thereof, equal to the number of school direcnotice for holding such meetings, and the tors in their county, to be distributed among time for and manner of holding said elections, the several boards of directors. to be in conformity with the preceding part the common school system shall be suspen-

school district in which the common school | propriation of two hundred thousand dollars: system has been adopted, or shall hereafter | Provided, That the controllers of the pub-4. If any controversy should arise among be adopted, shall have power to purchase lie schools for the city and county of Philacounty purposes; and when so collected, the directors of any district, or adjoining and hold real and personal property which delphia be, and they hereby are authorized, same shall be paid to the district treasurer, districts, concerning the duties of their office, may be necessary for the establishment and whenever they shall think proper, to establishment for the time being, by orders drawn by the the distribution of the state appropriation, or support of said schools; and the same to sell, lish one central high school, for the full edusaid commissioners on the county treasurer. the levying and collection of taxes, he is alien and dispose of, whenever it shall be no cation of such pupils of the public schools of SECT. 8. The school directors of every hereby authorized to settle and adjust the longer required for the uses aforesaid; and the first school district, as may possess the school district which shall have adopted the same, without cost to the parties; and all in all cases where real estate is held by trus requisite qualifications, and the moneys ex common school system, shall perform the moneys reasonably expended by him in this tees for the general use of the neighborhood, pended in the establishment and support of as a school house or its appendages, it shall the said high school, shall be provided and tion of his duty as superintendent, shall,upon be lawful for the said trustees, the survivor paid in the same manner as is now, or shall due proof, be allowed to him by the Audi- or survivors of them, to convey the same to hereafter be directed by law, with respect tor General, and be paid out of the State the school directors aforesaid; and from to the other public schools of the said disthenceforth the said board shall hold the trict: And Provided further, That so said property for the same term and for the much of the tenth section of the act of March February, transmit to the commissioners of same uses for which it was granted to said 3d, 1818, as renders the exclusive use of

the provisions of former acts, shall severally directors, and all such provisions, (if any) in hold their offices during the term for which the said act and the several supplements they were elected; and all appropriations thereto, as limit the benefits of the said pubauthorized by former acts, whether by the lic schools to the children of indigent parents, state or county, and all taxes authorized to and so much of any act as is hereby altered be raised for school purposes, shall be collor supplied, be and the same are hereby re lected as they would have been collected if pealed; and in said public schools all chilthis act had not been passed.

SECT. 16. The county commissioners of ted. every county within this commonwealth, except the county of Philadelphia, when levying a tax for county purposes shall estimate the amount which will be required to educate the poor gratis in the several districts of their county which shall have rejected the common school system; and six. when an estimate is so made, they shall levy the amount on said districts, and collect the same in the usual manner, and shall continue to provide for the education of the poor gratis therein, agreeably to the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide for the education of the poor gratis," passed the fourth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and nine, or such special acts of assembly as may be in force in any of the counties where there may be districts rejecting the provisions of this act: Provided, That the whole expense thereby incurred, shall be paid out of the amount levied on said districts as aforesaid.

hereafter be endowed by bequest, or other of other Sceptics, in defence of Infidelity. wise, the board of directors of the district in which such school is located, are hereby the city of New York, commenced Nov. 11th, authorized to allow such school to remain 1835, and terminated Feb. 18th, 1836. The under the immediate direction of the regu- substance of the arguments both by Dr. Sleigh larly appointed trustees of the same, and to and his opponents was faithfully and impartially appropriate so much of the district school taken down on the spot, and has been carefully find to said school as they may think just arguments and objections of both parties. shall be generally conducted in conformity historical, and explanatory notes and also nu. with the common school system of this com-

provide for a general system of education erful objections of all the Infidels that ever lived. by common schools," and also the supplement thereto, passed the fifteenth day of this work, present herewith the "Introduction," April, Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and which furnishes many interesting particulars rethirty-five, are hereby repealed: Provided, specting the discussion. They also subjoin That every thing heretofore done in pursuance of said acts, shall be held valid.

SECT. 19. If the corporation of the city common school system, agreeably to the provisions of this act, then the act to provide er distinguished gentlemen of New York herein for the education of children at the public contained, would sufficeexpense, in the city and incorporated boten days at least, signed by not less than dent of common schools, who shall forthwith roughs of the county of Lancaster, passed the first day of April, one thousand eight new type, and each number will contain twentyhundred and twenty-two, and the supplement thereto, passed the first day of April, one four other engravings. One number, it is exthousand eight hundred and twenty-three, pected, will be published each week, and the shall, from the time of the adoption of the work will probably be completed in fifty numbers. The numbers will be delivered to suboperative, null and void.

SECT. 20. In all cases, where, under "Ar act to provide for a general system of education by common schools," and also the The price, twelve and a half cents each number, supplement thereto, passed the fifteeenth will be expected on delivery, and subscribers at day of April, Anno Domini, one thousand a distance must make payment in advance, or eight hundred and thirty-five, the directors of any district may have met and decided supplied, on such terms that they can employ to accept of the law, and have appointed a persons to canvass for subscribers; and copies delegate to attend the county convention of this Prospectus will be transmitted to any who for the purpose of accepting and carrying into effect the provisions of said law, but if from Editor of each newspaper or periodical who will any cause said delegate has failed to attend notice the work, and send a copy of such notice said convention, said township shall be ensaid convention, said township shall be en- to titled to all the benefits and provisions thereof, on the same terms and conditions as those who have literally complied are entitled: Provided, said delegate shall, on or before the first day of August next, record the vote of said township in the affirmative, with the clerk of the convention.

SECT. 21. The school year mentioned in this act, and in an act entitled "An act to UMNS, of enlarged dimensions. provide for a general system of education by common schools," and the supplement choice engravings, original tales, reviews, poetry, thereto, passed the fifteenth day of April, &c. with the addition of the best talents-for one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, shall be taken and understood to end on the first Monday of June, to wit: The school year of one thousand eight hundred and year. thirty-seven, will end on the first Monday of June of that year, and so of all other years.

SECT. 22. Immediately after the passage of this act, the superintendent of common schools shall cause circular letters, with a Tuesday of May, in the year one thousand than three newspapers in the county, for

now in operation in the city and county of expense within the city and county of Phil adelphia," are declared to be concurrent with the provisions of this act, and are in noor repealed, except so far that said city and for \$10. SAMUEL C. ATKINSON. wise to be considered as altered, amended. county shall be entitled to receive their due SECT. 14. The school directors of every proportion and share of the annual state ap-

the Lancasterian system in the first school SECT. 15. School directors elected under district, obligatory upon the controllors or dren over four years of age shall be admit-

> NER MIDDLESWARTH, Speaker of the House of Representatives. THOMAS S. CUNNINGHAM, Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED-The thirteenth day of June, Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and thirty-

JOS: RITNER.

June 20, 1836.

PROSPECTUS.

#### THE NEW YORK DISCUSSION. CHRISTIANITY rersus INFIDELITY.

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The Publishers, in soliciting patronage for

pers during its progress.

If any other proof of the importance of the arguments advanced by Dr. Sleigh were neces of Lancaster shall at any time adopt the sary than the glorious and triumphant result of

CONDITIONS, &c. four octavo pages. The volume will be embel lished with a portrait of Dr. Sleigh, and at least scribers in this city, immediately after their pub-lication; and will in like manner be transmitted by mail to subscribers in any part of the United States, at the cost and risk of the publishers .-

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June 13, 1836.

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II. No subscription will the paper be discon-II. No subscription will be received for a shorter period than six months, nor will the paper be discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the discretion of the editor—A failure to notify a discontinuance will be considered a new engagement, and the paper forwarded accordingly.

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