

We have the satisfaction to report all the district schools in the township of Belleville to be in a healthy condition. All the schools in the several districts, under the care of the superintendent, are free.

All have been kept regularly open during the year, with the exception of the usual vacations; one excepted, the South Belleville, where some interruptions have occurred on account of the interference of a young man commencing to teach without license. The trustees have so arranged the matter, by placing their school under the care of a competent teacher, that they hope to have no further trouble.

The trustees of the several districts have been faithful, and are generally alive to the interest and comfort of the pupils.

All the districts, but one, have good houses, and are well taken care of; some are well furnished, and all have comfortable seats.

The South Belleville district has no school-room, their school being at present accommodated in private rooms, which has heretofore been kept in the village chapel.

The attendance of the scholars is not as punctual as to give satisfaction to teachers.

School registers are generally looked to, but are not as complete in detail as desirable.

With the people generally, our free institutions are approved and in favor.

Parents and guardians are not as much interested as the importance of the proper education of their children demand, and are too much inclined to leave the responsibility with the officers of the school.

The superintendent and trustees receive too little encouragement from the public in the important work committed to them. The care of having a place in school, in many cases, has by no means a salutary effect on the pupil or parent, for, as a general rule, that which costs nothing is little prized.

The superintendent is perfectly convinced that more decided measures should be adopted to wake up the people to the great business of disseminating learning among the masses, for the promotion and preservation of our institutions.

The superintendent is aware that the present is not the proper time rightly to estimate the public mind as interested in domestic institutions of learning, he would express his hopes, however, that a more propitious time may soon come, when these schools may receive the care and attention which their importance deserves.

We have, in the bounds of the second river district, a school under the care of the Catholic church, which is respectable in numbers, but the superintendent has no knowledge of its internal arrangements.

There is also a private school in South Belleville, under the care of a female teacher, which, I believe, is doing well, and favored by respectable families in the neighborhood, who are better satisfied to have their children educated in a more private way.

SAMUEL L. WARD,  
Town Superintendent