

58  
Tivans  
School Books

106

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

CIRCUMSTANCES

UNDER WHICH

DR. SULLIVAN'S SCHOOL BOOKS

WERE WRITTEN.

1858

Houses of the Oireachtas

*Not Official.]*

EDUCATION OFFICE, DUBLIN,  
21st May, 1858.

GENTLEMEN,

It could scarcely be credited, out of Ireland, that I have had to defend myself, on several occasions, for having written the little works on Education to which my name is prefixed.

As long as this was confined to our own establishment, and that I was the only person affected by the charge, I did not consider it necessary to do more than to give official explanations in each case. But as it has been recently stated, by a portion of the Dublin press,\* that the Commissioners unduly, and, in fact, corruptly, favoured my books, while they refused to do simple justice to the merits of the works written by certain others of their officers,† I think it due to the Board, as well as to myself, to state, once for all, the circumstances under which the books in question were written; and, also, my motives for writing them. This I shall do as briefly as possible; and I address my letter to you, because the documents to which I shall have occasion to refer are in your official possession.

On the 21st of May, 1832, twenty-six years ago, I was appointed one of the four original Inspectors under the Board. This appointment was made, it is said, on the special recommendation of "Archbishop Whately;" and it is also insinuated, that his Grace had

\* On the authority of a correspondent whose name is not given, nor, indeed, was there any necessity for so doing. Every person here knows who the anonymous writer is—and so, indeed, must every one who has read the recent attacks upon the Board, in the newspapers referred to.

† See Note A in the Appendix.

special reasons for so doing.\* I am proud to say, that it is perfectly true that I was specially recommended by the Archbishop on the occasion; and it is quite unnecessary to add, that the only motives which led his Grace to make the recommendation were, my supposed qualifications for the office. Up to the period of my becoming a candidate, I was a perfect stranger to the Archbishop, and, indeed, to all the other Commissioners. I might add, on the authority of the evidence of the Right Honourable Anthony R. Blake, before a Parliamentary Committee,† that, in addition to my testimonials of character, &c., I owed my appointment to the result of a *competitive* examination.

In the summer of 1832, I commenced my labours as Inspector for the Province of Ulster, in which part of Ireland the opposition to the National System of Education was the most general and the most determined; and amongst other obstacles to its extension and improvement I found, in almost every school which I visited, a deficiency of suitable school books.‡ This I strongly represented to the Board, and I was glad to learn that no time would be lost in bringing out a complete set of *Reading Books*. I also learned, with regret, that it was not intended that the list should include a *Spelling Book*, because Dr. M'Arthur, the Head-Master of the Model School, was strongly of opinion, that Orthography should be taught from the Reading Books, and by Dictation, and not from Spelling Books.

It was with reference to this that I wrote the following official letter to the then Secretary:—

“ 17, *St. Andrew's-street,*  
“ 22nd *February, 1834.*

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ Should the Board accept of it, I shall feel great pleasure in enlarging and adapting (during my vacant hours), for the

\* See Note B in the Appendix.

† See Note C in the Appendix.

‡ See Note D in the Appendix.

use of the National Schools, the Spelling Book appended to my little work, *Dictionary of Derivations*.\*

“In the schools in my district, at least, there is a great desire for a Spelling Book of some kind; and from the number of schools (including the Feneigian Institution, Rev. Mr. Huddert’s, and Rev. Dr. Wall’s), into which my little work has been already introduced, I have reason to think that something on a similar plan (*a Text Book on Orthography*) would be acceptable.

“You will oblige me by stating to the Board, that I do not wish for, nor will I accept of, any remuneration for my labour.

“I am, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.

“P.S.—Should the Board accept of a Spelling Book from me, you will oblige me by stating the number of copies requisite. The size will be about three sheets.

“Thomas F. Kelly, Esq., LL.D., Secretary, &c.”

In about a fortnight after I wrote the following letter on the same subject:—

“*Belfast, 9th March, 1834.*

“MY DEAR SIR,

“You will oblige me by saying, as soon as you find it convenient, whether the Board accepts my offer of the *Text-Book on Orthography*, conveyed in a letter which I sent you a day or two before I left town. On the same terms (*gratuitously*), I will undertake to write something that might be called, ‘The Elements of English Grammar for the use of the Irish National Schools.’ Before I commence it, however, I will communicate with Dr. M’Arthur on the subject.

“I trust it is unnecessary for me to add, that these undertakings shall not interfere with my duties as Inspector.

“I am, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.

“Thomas F. Kelly, Esq., LL.D., &c.”

\* This little work I had written before I had any idea of being connected with the National System of Education; and I had also edited and enlarged, for the late Mr. Cumming (the eminent school-book publisher), the Twentieth Edition of “Turner’s Arts and Sciences.” I had, therefore, been guilty of attempts at “book-making” before I was appointed as an officer of the Board.

To the above letter I received, by return of post, the following reply :—

“*Education Office, Dublin,*  
“10th March, 1834.”

“MY DEAR SIR,

“The Board had your proposal before them on Thursday last, and have adopted Dr. M'Arthur's view of it, a copy of which I send on the other side. It will most likely lead to a perfect understanding, that you should communicate with him, should you find it necessary. The Board has desired me to acknowledge your kindness in the offer made by you, which I now do. I presented your Book\* to the Archbishop, who begs to thank you very warmly. The contents of it were very favourably noticed by his Grace. I think you are right respecting the Grammar.

“Very faithfully yours,

“THOMAS F. KELLY, Secretary.

“Robert Sullivan, Esq., Belfast.”

“Dr. M'Arthur's view,” as communicated to me, was this—

“I think about a sheet of Exercises in Spelling might be very useful. These exercises not to consist of columns of difficult words, but of sentences, which the children might write on their slates from the dictation of the monitor.

“If there were no more than a single sheet, it might be bound up with the Third and Fourth Reading Books, which would be a great advantage.

“A. M'ARTHUR.

“10th March, 1834.”

My views differed from those of Dr. M'Arthur, both with regard to the plan and the extent of the proposed work. The plan which I had in my mind comprised much more than *Sentences for Dictation*; and I knew that it would require, at least, three sheets to do it justice. The result, however, was, that I drew it up in two sheets; and, to suit my convenience, the Board permitted it to be printed in Belfast, and they ordered and paid for the printing of 2,000 copies of it (on the 5th July, 1834). It is stated in the title-page, that it

\* A new edition of the “Dictionary of Derivations.”

is "FOR THE USE OF THE IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS," and the Preface, or Introduction, to it is as follows:—

"Teachers, instead of occupying the time of their pupils in the useless drudgery of committing to memory the uninteresting and endless columns of a dictionary, or spelling-book, are recommended to adopt the improved method of teaching Orthography, viz., by DICTATION. It is simply this: *The Teacher either reads from a book, or dictates a sentence of his own framing, to the pupil, who either writes it down verbatim, or merely spells the words as they occur, as if he were writing them down.*

"This PRACTICAL PLAN of teaching Orthography does not, however, entirely supersede the use of spelling-books. There should at least be a TEXT-BOOK on the subject, which the pupil may be made to consult, when necessary, and to which even the teacher may occasionally refer with advantage.

"Such is the object of the following sketch; which contains, either in columns, or in sentences formed for DICTATION, almost all the words in the language which are liable to be misspelled. These, and sentences similarly formed, should be dictated by the teacher to the pupils, who should either spell every word as it occurs, or, if they are competent, write down the entire sentence on their slates. The latter mode is preferable, as it is only by writing that a perfect knowledge of Orthography can be acquired.

"Lastly, teachers should accustom their pupils to spell, and give, in their own language, their own idea of every unusual and important word which occurs in their *reading lessons*; particularly the words which have been selected from, and prefixed to the several lessons in the FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD CLASS-BOOKS. It will, of course, be the business of the teacher to correct the ideas of the pupils, and to explain to them, when necessary, the proper meaning of the word in question."

This was the First Edition of *The Spelling Book Superseded*, a little work which has a wider circulation than, perhaps, any other on the same subject in the English language. And, but for the fortunate difference between my views and those of Dr. M'Arthur, it never could have been so successful; for, if it had been placed on the Board's list as one of their books, it would, in all probability, have remained to this day without enlargement and without improvement.\* The Board, as I

\* It is obvious that the enlargement, or even improvement, of any of the Board's books after they have been formally sanctioned, must be attended with peculiar difficulties.

have said before, paid for the printing of it, and they also generously pressed me to receive remuneration for the copyright of it; but I declined doing so, because I had offered to draw it up gratuitously, and, also, because I considered that it would require, at least, another sheet to complete it.

My "Elements of English Grammar," which I had also offered gratuitously, met with a similar fate;\* and this would have been the end, as well as the beginning, of my attempts at "book-making for the Board," but for the circumstances in which I found myself placed, some years after.† This, the following letter will explain; but long previous to this I had published my little books on my own account, both in Dublin and in London, and I need not say with what success:—

"Education Office, Training Department,  
"25th November, 1844.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I think I am entitled to say, without laying myself open to the charge of vanity or presumption, that my little works on Education have been useful to the National Schools, and creditable to the Commissioners. It has been stated in the public journals, and is, I am sure, generally believed, that the credit of the publication of these works is due to the Board. But the fact is, if there be any credit in the matter, it is all my own; for the Board neither *enabled* nor *encouraged* me to publish them. On the contrary, the *Minutes* which they sent me were calculated to prevent me from bringing them out. For instance, when I offered to draw up an "Outline of the Rules and Regulations, and Method of Teaching in the Model Schools for the use of the Teachers in Training, &c.," I was sent a Minute, which informed me that the Board assented to my proposal, but "that any expense incurred was to be met by Mr. Sullivan." The date of this Minute is 1st October, 1840. Few persons would have gone on with the work under the circumstances; but I, seeing the necessity there was for having

\* The late Dr. M'Arthur was one of the best practical teachers I ever knew; and in the compilation of school-books, the Board, naturally and properly, preferred his views to mine.

† In 1838 I was appointed one of the Professors, and I had to lecture on Geography for upwards of three years without a *Text-book*, and to instruct in the Principles of Teaching without a *Manual*.

something of the kind, completed and published it at my own risk and expense. After its publication, the Board did me the honour of adopting and extensively circulating it,\* and they were also pleased to accept of it from me as a contribution to the cause; for, as in the case of former works (as I have shown the Resident Commissioner), I had offered to draw it up gratuitously.

“The necessity for giving the large number of UNTRAINED and UNTRAINABLE National Teachers some information on the subject of systematic education, led me to publish my *Lectures*. In this case I received no encouragement from the Board. I was informed, that they must see the book published before they could give any opinion as to whether they would take any number of copies or not. I published it at my own risk; and, even after it was fully approved of, the following are the terms on which the Board took 2,000 copies of the impression:—The price to the public is 2s. 6d., in cloth—to the Board, 1s., in sheets, which, after paying 3d. for binding, they sell to the National Schools for 1s. 4d., thus making a penny on each copy, instead of losing something by the work, as is done in the case of strangers. I was also bound, by the Minute of the Board, ‘to repay the amount advanced in the event of the work not being sold within six months, the period of six months to date from the 1st of May next.’

“In the case of that very successful and popular work, the *Geography Generalized*, I received some little encouragement; for I was informed, that the Board would be happy to examine it either in manuscript or print. I published it; the Board expressed their full approval of it, and informed Dr. Carlile that they were strongly disposed to sanction its immediate introduction into the National Schools, adding, at the same time, that they did not think it would interfere with the work which he had undertaken (while a Commissioner) to write. The Board then took 3,000 copies of the work, in sheets, at 8½d. per copy, which they sold to the schools at 1s., bound. By this arrangement, the National Schools had the advantage of buying the work at *half* the selling price, whilst the Board gained a halfpenny on each copy, for the binding cost them but 3d. The Board, of themselves, on the suggestion of the Rev. Dr. Henry,† requested me to publish the Second Part‡ of

\* It is now out of print, but it will be found in full in the Appendix of the Board's Parliamentary Report for the year 1840.

† The Rev Dr. Henry succeeded the Rev. Dr. Carlile as Commissioner.

‡ This was enlarged and published under the name of “An Introduction to Geography and History.”

the work for the use of the junior pupils. This was done; and in order to increase its utility and value, I improved it to the utmost of my ability, furnished it with maps, and stereotyped it. This was the first encouragement given to me as an *author* by the Board, and the amount of it was just this: they pay me exactly what they paid, and still pay, Mr. Clarke (bookseller) for his book. Without making any literary comparisons between them, my work contains a sheet more than his, and nearly twice as much matter. The paper of my book, too, is much superior; and there are, besides, in it several maps and illustrations. He was allowed to supply his for several years. Mine is about to be superseded, just after I had incurred so much expense and labour with it; for it cannot be that two works on the same subject are to be supplied to the same school \* Mr. Carlile, therefore, has succeeded in depriving the National Schools of both my works on Geography.

“ In the case of the *Geography Generalized*, which I now withdraw from the National Schools (as well as the other works I have mentioned), there is some appearance of excuse. He, while in connexion with the Board, expressed his intention to write a work on geography. He did not, however, within three years after he had resigned his office, commence it, nor is it yet completed. I made no objections to this, though, as the person appointed by the Board to lecture on geography, and known to the public as a successful writer on the subject, I might have said that Dr. Carlile’s delay freed the Board from the obligation (if there be really any, for I am not aware that there is). But in the case of his *second* work there was no such engagement or understanding.

“ In the list of the Board’s books for the ensuing year you will please to omit my *Lectures*. I intended, as you and the Resident Commissioner are aware, to throw the substance of that publication, and ‘*The Outline*,’ with other matter, into a work which I intended to call a ‘Manual for the Teachers of National Schools.’ This work, as you are aware, I intended to present to the Board, gratuitously; but I now withdraw my offer, and I cheerfully leave the work, which is certainly much required, to any person the Board may choose to employ.

\* In this letter (which it will be seen I immediately withdrew) I did an injustice to Dr. Carlile. When his work appeared it was evident that he never intended that it should displace mine. His is rather a Book of Reference for the use of the teachers and advanced pupils. It is, in fact, a small Cyclopaedia of Geography and History; and his smaller book is an introduction to his larger one. I gladly take this opportunity of adding that the services of the late Rev. Dr. Carlile in the cause of National Education, particularly in the compilation of the National School Books, cannot be too highly estimated.

“The *Dictionary of Derivations*, which has been for some time supplied to the teachers in the Training School, I also withdraw after the present course.

“P.S.—I have just published a new edition of the *Geography Generalized*, of 3,000 copies. This edition the Board may have at 9d. a copy, in sheets; and I think they are bound to take it, as it was brought out for them. In the new edition, which I will immediately publish, those portions which identified it with the National Schools, and which militated against the sale of it, particularly in Ireland, will be omitted, and some other matter substituted.

“I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.

“The Secretaries, &c.”

The foregoing letter was, I had reason to know brought under the special notice of the Board by the Resident Commissioner; and the result was very much to my advantage, for the Commissioners agreed to place my books on their Sanctioned List, and to supply them to their schools at reduced prices. And this, be it observed, was doing no more for an officer who had been twelve years in their service, than they had done, and still do, for the authors and proprietors of the other books on their Sanctioned List. This letter, I should add, is not in your Office. I withdrew it the day after it was read to the Board, and substituted in its stead the following one, which has the advantage of being shorter and *more official*:—

“*Education Office, Training Department,*

“GENTLEMEN,

“27th November, 1844.

“In the Board’s list of books for the ensuing year you will please to omit my ‘*Lectures on Popular Education*.’ In a few months this work will be out of print, and I do not intend for some time to republish it. When I do I will throw the substance of ‘*The Outline*,’ with some new matter, into it.

“The name of the *Geography Generalized* you may retain for the present, but after this edition I intend to withdraw it: I mean the edition which has just been published (3,000 copies). All these works I have hitherto enabled the Board to supply to their schools, not only without any loss, but with a small profit. The *Dictionary of Derivations*, which has been supplied to the teachers in the Training School since Dr. Carlile’s

time, I withdraw after the present course. All that was peculiarly applicable in it to *English* teachers I have thrown into the last edition of the *Spelling-Book Superseded*, so that it renders its further supply unnecessary. This will save the Board 2s. 8d. for every teacher trained, and it will be no loss to me, but the contrary, for the selling price of the work is 4s. 6d.

“The new edition of the *Geography Generalized* (3,000 copies) the Board may have at the cost of printing and paper. I enclose the printer’s account of the expenses of both.

“I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.

“The Secretaries, &c. &c.”

In reply to the preceding letter, the Board not only offered to purchase the whole of the new edition of the *Geography Generalized*, but also to pay extra for the new matter which I had added to it. To this I refer in the following letter:—

“*Education Office, Training Department,*

“GENTLEMEN,

“4th December, 1844.

“With reference to your communication of the 2nd instant, in which you state that ‘the Commissioners are of opinion that some increased remuneration should be given to me for the enlarged edition of the *Geography Generalized*, I beg to say that I would much prefer that the National teachers and schools should have the advantage of the Board’s generosity in the matter (for notwithstanding the enlargement and improvement I have made in the last edition of the work, the Board are not bound to give me more than the original terms).

“However, as the Commissioners are of opinion that the ‘*Additions*’ should be paid for at the same rate as the previous edition—that is, a penny a sheet in quires, the price of the new edition should be (without taking into consideration the maps and illustrations) 1s. in quires, or 1s. 3d. bound. Now, if the Board, instead of giving me the additional 3d., give it to their schools, by selling the work at 3d. less than it costs them, I will be perfectly satisfied; nor shall I be a loser by it, for the next edition (as the work is now stereotyped) will be a profitable one. I might add, that by doing this the Board will secure the cheap circulation among their schools of a useful and creditable work. I have only to add, that if this proposal be approved of, the Board need not take the 3,000 copies at once, but in five hundreds, as they may want them.

“I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.

“The Secretaries, &c. &c.”

The following is the official reply to the preceding proposal:—

“*Education Office,*  
“7th December, 1844.

“SIR,

“The Commissioners of Education direct us to inform you that, as you decline receiving any additional remuneration for the extra matter in your new edition of *Geography Generalized*, they agree to the proposal contained in your letter of the 4th instant, namely, to purchase such quantities of the present edition as they may require (not less than 500 copies at one time), at the same price as formerly—namely, 1s. per copy, bound. In accordance with your suggestion, the Commissioners further agree to make a reduction in the price of the book to National Schools of at least 3d. per copy.

“You are authorized to supply 1,000 copies of the work for present use.

“We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

“MAURICE CROSS,

“JAMES KELLY,

“*Secretaries.*

“Robert Sullivan, Esq., Training Department.”

My “*Lectures and Letters on Popular Education*” I withdrew for the reasons assigned, or, rather, I did not republish them, for they were retained on the Board’s list till they were all sold; and to this day I make use of them in my lecture room. I mention this, because I find it stated by a writer in the *Freeman’s Journal* of the 4th inst., that “they enjoyed but a brief circulation, having been voted off the price list as objectionable, even by Archbishop Murray, the mildest and most tolerant of Catholic ecclesiastics.”\*

In the eulogium on Archbishop Murray, I most cordially concur. He was esteemed and venerated by every person who knew him, and by no person more than by myself. But this is the only truth in this statement. There is nothing in the Records of the office to show that Archbishop Murray ever objected to these Lectures; and, certainly, neither he, nor any of the other Commissioners, ever “voted them off the

\* See Note A in the Appendix, and also the Marginal Note, page 1.

price list as objectionable." The following Minute of the Board proves that they were placed on the list on the 9th April, 1842; and the official letter of the 27th November, 1844, which I have just quoted, shows that they continued on it for upwards of two years and a-half—in fact, till they were all sold:—

“ *Education Office, 9th April, 1842.*

“ SIR,

“ The Commissioners of Education having considered your offer, direct us to acquaint you that they agree to purchase 2,000 copies of your ‘Lectures and Letters on Popular Education,’ at one shilling per copy, upon the conditions stated in your letter of the 31st ultimo—namely, that certain passages in the work already pointed out, shall be expunged, and that you are willing to undertake to repay the amount\* advanced by the Board in the event of the work not being sold within Six months, the period of Six months to date from the 1st May next.

“ We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

“ M. CROSS,

“ J. KELLY,

“ *Secretaries.*

“ Robert Sullivan, Esq., Training Department.”

But it may be said that the false and malicious statement to which I have referred must have had some foundation, otherwise the Board would not have required me to “expunge certain passages in the work already pointed out.” The facts are: the Commissioners, as in all similar cases, examined the work before sanctioning it. This is recorded in a Minute, dated 10th March, 1842, namely—

“ The consideration of Mr. Sullivan’s offer to be deferred until the Commissioners shall have had an opportunity of perusing the work.”

And at a meeting of the Board, on the 31st of the same month, one of the Commissioners present (whose name is recorded) undertook to read the work through,

\* That is, the £100 which they were to pay for the purchase of 2,000 copies, at one shilling each. The price to the public was 2s. 6d.

and to report upon it. This he did most carefully; and the result was that, at the next meeting of the Board, he pointed out, both to the Commissioners and to me, some sentences, or rather expressions, *not in any thing I had written*, but in some extracts which I had introduced from other writers, particularly from the Rev. Dr. Biber's "Life of Pestalozzi," to which he thought some persons might possibly object. I at once offered to cancel the two or three leaves in which the expressions objected to occurred, and the work was unanimously sanctioned at the next meeting of the Board (9th April, 1842).

I regret to add, that the want of a "*Manual for the use of the Teachers of National Schools*" is still unsupplied. My "Lectures and Letters on Popular Education," "Outline of the Rules and Regulations, and Methods of Teaching in the National Model Schools," and my more recent "Papers on Popular Education," were brought out by me to supply that want till something better and more systematic should appear. And, previous to the publication of the "Papers on Popular Education," I made another attempt to supply that want, as appears by the following official letters:—

*"Education Office, Training Department,  
"23rd February, 1855.*

"GENTLEMEN,

"You will oblige me by stating to the Board that it is my intention, with their permission, to present them with a 'Manual for the use of Teachers of their Schools.' This Manual will contain, either in the body of the work, or in the Appendix, the greater portion of my 'Lectures and Letters on Popular Education,' which the Board have already sanctioned. But as it is my wish that the intended work should not only be useful, but also *unobjectionable* to all parties, I purpose to bring it out in detached papers, under the following heads:— 'Notes of Lectures on Education and School-keeping,' by Professor Sullivan. (*Not published.*) By bringing out these papers at intervals, and as if for the use of my class, the Commissioners will have time to examine them at their leisure, and to make any suggestion to me that may strike them as necessary.

These suggestions I will attend to, if made by any of the Commissioners, *individually* and *verbally*, which, I think, would be better than if they were made *officially* by the Board.

“If the Board approve of this plan, it will be necessary to give an order for printing (but not *publishing*) these papers at intervals. But if it is not approved of, I will then bring out the work myself, and offer it *officially* to the Board for the use of the teachers of National Schools. In this case, it will be difficult to have *alterations* or *omissions* made in it; and, in fact, the Board will have either to accept or refuse it as it stands.

“I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.

“The Secretaries, &c.”

To this proposal I received the following official reply:—

“*Education Office, 12th March, 1855.*

“SIR,

“We laid before the Commissioners of National Education your letter of the 23rd ultimo, in which you state your intention to present them with a Manual, published for the use of the teachers of the National Schools, &c., &c.

“We are to inform you, that the Commissioners decline to inspect the work as you propose; they prefer to examine the *proof sheets, when the work shall have been completed.*

“We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

“MAURICE CROSS,

“JAMES KELLY,

“*Secretaries.*

“Robert Sullivan, Esq., LL.D., Training Department.”

I shall now give a brief account of the causes which led to the publication of my *English Dictionary*. From the first establishment of the system, the want of such a work was universally felt in our schools. By me, and, indeed, by all the other original Inspectors, this had been strongly represented. But the Board thought that it would be a difficult and a dangerous thing for them to bring out a Dictionary; and I well recollect an observation made by Mr. Holmes, on one occasion when I happened to be present, when the question was mooted—“If the Board publish a Dictionary, they will be held responsible for the explanation of every word in it.”

It appears, however, by the following official letter to the Secretaries, dated 6th October, 1842, that I made an attempt to supply the want to a certain extent:—

“GENTLEMEN,

“You will oblige me by stating to the Board, that I am still strongly of opinion that it would be of the greatest service, both to the pupils and the teachers in the National Schools, to have at the end of each of the Lesson Books a kind of Dictionary of the unusual and difficult words which occur in them. The ignorance of the generality of the teachers of the meaning of words may be inferred from this fact—I required the class now in training to select for me the words in our Lesson Books which they wished to have an explanation of, and the number and *description* of the words which they selected surprised me, though I had formed a very low estimate of their knowledge of language.

“I have to add, that should the Board wish to have this desirable Appendage to their publications, I shall feel happy in rendering my assistance, *gratuitously*, to any person or persons they may employ for the purpose. I also beg to add, that I consider *Mr. Rintoul* and *Mr. Blakely* very suitable persons to be employed in this matter; the former has been teaching the books for many years, and is, therefore, acquainted with the words which require explanation; and *Mr. Blakely* is also well acquainted with the books, having corrected the press for so long a time.”

To the foregoing proposal I received the following official reply:—

“*Education Office, 21st October, 1842.*

“SIR,

“Your letter of the 6th inst. having been laid before the Board, we are directed to inform you, that the Commissioners do not deem it desirable to accede to your proposal to append to each of the Lesson Books a kind of Dictionary of the unusual and difficult words which occur in them.

“We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

“MAURICE CROSS,

“JAMES KELLY,

“*Secretaries.*

“Robert Sullivan, Esq., Training Department.”

I then determined to attempt a Dictionary myself, which, perhaps, I would not, at that time, have ventured to do, but for a very liberal offer made to me by Mr.

Thom,\* with regard to the printing and stereotyping of it. This very laborious work (which occupied a large portion of my leisure hours for several years) was completed in 1847, and since that period it has been supplied to the Board for the use of the National Schools at 1s. 6d. per copy, that is, at nearly 55 per cent. ( $54\frac{1}{2}\frac{6}{1}$ ) under the price at which it is sold to the public.

I shall conclude my observations on this work with the following short extract from the Preface to it:—

“The great object which the compiler of this work had in view was, to enable the publisher to supply the teachers and pupils of the National Schools in Ireland with a complete dictionary of the English language, at a price commensurate with their humble means. In order to effect this, he saw that it would be necessary to bring the work within the smallest possible dimensions, consistent with its completeness as a dictionary. And this, he conceives, he has effected; for, notwithstanding the smallness of its size, it will be found to contain all the authorized words given in the largest and most recent works on the subject. In fact, it contains between two and three thousand words more than Walker’s, which has been so long regarded as one of the standard dictionaries of the English language; and though the meanings or explanations of the words have been necessarily abridged and condensed, yet they will be found quite as full as in the standard work just mentioned.

“The small, but clear and distinct type with which the work has been printed, has contributed much to the attainment of the object which the compiler had in view.”

I should add, too, that in the compilation of this dictionary I took care to omit, or to render unobjectionable, every word and definition calculated to give offence to any denomination of Christians. And, though this can be ascertained by any person who takes the trouble of comparing the definitions referred to with those in any other English dictionary, yet the anonymous writer alluded to in page 1, has had the hardihood to represent my dictionary as being sectarian in its object.†

\* Alexander Thom, Esq., the Government Printer.

† In the newspaper from which the extract given under Appendix A is taken.

The *Literary Class-Book* was placed on the Board's Sanctioned List in the year 1850, as appears by the following official letter; and the subjoined extract which I have made from the preface to the work, gives the reasons which led me to publish it:—

SIR,

“ Education Office,  
“ 4th May, 1850.

“ We are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to inform you that they have agreed to place the *Literary Class-Book* upon the list of works sanctioned by them, and they will now take 500 copies in sheets, at the rate of 1s. 2d. per copy.

“ The price at which the work will be sold to National Schools will be regulated on the same principle as the other books of the same class on the Board's list.

“ We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

“ MAURICE CROSS,  
“ JAMES KELLY,  
“ Secretaries.

“ Professor Sullivan, &c.”

Extract from the preface of the *Literary Class-Book*:—

“ The substance of the introduction to this compilation was originally given by me in the form of a lecture, to the Teachers in the Training Establishment of the Board of National Education in Ireland; and in order that it might be of permanent use to them after leaving the Establishment, I readily, at their request, furnished them with copies of it in print. I did not, however, publish it; nor was it my intention that it should circulate beyond our own schools. I have now, however, been induced by the recommendation of several educational friends, to increase its utility by publishing it in connexion with a Class-book on Reading. The great number of excellent Reading-books which have been published of late years, seems to render a new one on the subject uncalled for and unnecessary; but I have long been of opinion, that in almost all of these class-books there is a great deficiency in literary selections. That compilations of this kind (particularly when they are intended for the use of the children in Popular or National Schools) should contain as much information as possible on scientific and useful subjects is certainly very desir-

able; but still the literature of our language should have its due place in them; or, at least, there should be, in addition to them, some other class-books to supply this deficiency. With this view I have compiled the present volume; and should I be spared, it is probable that I may, at no very distant period, bring out an additional one, to which I shall prefix a short introduction to English Literature. In the meantime, a glance over the contents of this volume will show that it contains a far greater portion of the literature of our language than its size would seem to indicate. Besides, the Exercises on Reading, which are not specified in the contents, will be found to contain a copious selection of the choicest and most beautiful specimens of our best and most approved writers. These exercises extend from page 170 to page 232."

I have now explained the circumstances under which each of my little works on education was written, and I will conclude by quoting an extract from an official letter which I addressed to the Board, through you, on the 3rd October, 1856. The remaining portion of the letter will show that I considered it necessary to make this general statement regarding my books:—

"All these works were written, either after business hours, or during the regular vacations; nor, indeed, would it have been possible for me to write them at any other time, even if I had been so disposed, for it is well known that during the hours of office I have never five minutes which I can call my own. I have not, however, written any book for the last seven years, nor is it likely that I shall write any more.

"But with regard to these books, some of the Commissioners are, perhaps, not aware that they were originally written to supply wants which I found in the National Schools, while acting as Inspector, from the year 1832 to 1838; and it is a matter of record that I offered them *gratuitously* to the Board. The generosity of the Commissioners, however, prevented them from accepting them, unless I would consent to receive the usual terms per sheet which they gave at the time. As my books were not *compilations*, I, fortunately for myself, declined to supply them as such, and this led me to publish them at my own risk and expense; and when they had gone through several editions, and their success was no longer doubtful, the Board took them from me as if from a stranger, but with this difference, that my books are at least 20 per cent. cheaper than any of those supplied by the *Trade* to the

National Schools.\* In fact, the Trade neither would nor could supply similar works on the terms that I do; and this arises from the great success and *great circulation* of my books; and, I might add, too, from the absence of a mercantile spirit in the proprietor of them, for it has always been my wish that my little works should be sold as cheaply as possible. For example, my books are supplied to the Board at *three-farthings the printed sheet*, with nearly 10 per cent. off on an average—or, taking another point of view, they are, with one or two exceptions, supplied to the Board at upwards of 50 per cent. cheaper than they are sold to the public. And when the cheapness of my books to the public is considered, the reduction made to the Board is the more striking. The following table shows what the Board pay for each book in sheets, and what they would pay for them if bound as for the public; and also what the public pay for them:—

Name of Book.	Number of sheets, calculated in demy.	Price to the Board in sheets.		Price to the Board, if supplied as bound for the Public.†		Selling price to the Public.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Spelling Book Superseded, . . . . .	7	0	4½	0	7	1	4
Introduction to Geography and History,	5	0	3½	0	6	1	0
English Grammar, . . . . .	5	0	3½	0	6	1	0
Geography Generalized, . . . . .	13½	0	9	1	1½	2	0
English Dictionary, . . . . .	21	1	2	1	7	3	6
Literary Class-Book, . . . . .	21½	1	2	1	7	3	0‡

In connexion with the statement regarding my School Books, I should, perhaps, put upon record my attempts to establish a “Journal of Education for the use of the Teachers of National Schools.” On this subject I wrote,

\* For a considerable time past my books have been supplied directly to the Board by the Trade, namely, by my nephews, Marcus and John Sullivan, whom I established in Dublin, upwards of three years ago, as School-Book and Educational publishers.

† That is, in coloured cloth, stamped and lettered, and according to the prices which I paid to Mr. Pilkington for the books bound for the public.

‡ The price of the *Literary Class-Book* has since been reduced to 2s. 6d.

eighteen years ago, the following letter to Lord Morpeth (the Earl of Carlisle), who was at that period Chief Secretary for Ireland, and a Commissioner of National Education:—

“ Education Office, Dublin,  
“ 9th March, 1840.

“ MY LORD,

“ With great respect, I beg leave to solicit your lordship’s attention to the enclosed Letter,\* and the introductory observations which accompany it. It was translated by me under the signature of ‘*A late Inspector*’ for the *Schoolmasters’ Magazine*, an unpretending, but very useful publication, which I am doing every thing in my power to encourage. Under the signature I have mentioned, I contribute an article monthly, and, what is more conducive to the stability of the work, I take 100 copies of each impression (most of which I get off among the Teachers in the Training Establishment). But without more effectual support, the work, I am convinced, cannot succeed; nor is it, perhaps, desirable that such a publication should circulate among the National Teachers unless under the *ensorship* of the Commissioners, or of some judicious authority responsible to them.

“ From inquiries and calculations that I have made on the subject, I have reason to believe that a monthly journal of the

\* A Translation of the celebrated Letter which M. Guizot, when Minister of Public Instruction, addressed to the Primary Teachers of France. In this letter he tells the teachers that the King, on his recommendation, had been pleased to approve of the publication of a journal which should be specially devoted to Primary Instruction; and he adds: “I will take care that this General Manual shall diffuse among you the knowledge of improved and successful methods of teaching; happy experiments in education; practicable suggestions applicable to your schools; every official document which may instruct or interest you; and, in a word, every thing which may be able to direct zeal, secure success, and encourage emulation.”

This, the *Journal d’Instruction Primaire*, was accordingly established under Government patronage and control; and in Prussia, Holland, Wurtemberg, and, in short, in every country in which there is an organized system of National Education, there is a similar publication.

And since that time, several *Journals*, in connexion with Popular Education, have been established in England: as “The English Journal of Education,” “The Educational Times,” “Papers for the Schoolmaster;” and in Scotland, “The Scottish Educational Magazine.” In Canada, too, there is a monthly journal in connexion with the Government System of Education, namely, “The Toronto Journal of Education.”

size and price of the *Schoolmasters' Magazine* could be supported in the most creditable manner for about £100 per annum in addition to the profits of the work. The editor should be appointed by, and removable at the pleasure of the Commissioners; and the £100 per annum paid out of the annual Parliamentary grant. I need not observe to your Lordship that no £100 per annum out of the Education Funds could be better or more legitimately applied than to the extensive circulation of a cheap publication, devoted to the improvement of popular education, and to the dissemination of *moral* sentiments, and *sound* political information among the people at large.

“In conclusion, I beg your Lordship to believe that I have no *personal* interest in the adoption of the suggestion that I have taken the liberty of submitting for your Lordship's consideration. Should it be deemed desirable and *practicable*, I will, as in the case of the *Schoolmasters' Magazine*, do every thing in my power to render it useful to our schools. For this, I neither expect, *nor will I ever consent to receive remuneration in any shape*; and, in point of fact, it is doing nothing more than my duty.

“The deep interest which your Lordship is known to take in every measure which tends to improve the physical and moral condition of Ireland has encouraged, and, I trust, will excuse, the liberty I have taken.

“I have the honour to be, your Lordship's

“Very humble and obedient servant,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.

“The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Morpeth, &c.”

(*Copy of Lord Morpeth's Reply.*)

“DEAR SIR,

“*March 12th, 1840.*

“I have been greatly pleased in reading M. GUIZOT's address, which had not met my eyes before.

“Do not think me insensible to the force of the reasons which you put forward very ably in behalf of supporting some useful and authorized educational publication; but I am very strongly of opinion that, under present circumstances, we must devote all possible savings to make provision for the great number of schools whose applications have not yet been complied with.

“Very truly yours,

“MORPETH.

“Professor Sullivan, &c.”

And on the same subject I addressed, in the year

1854, the following printed circular to each of the Head and District Inspectors of National Schools throughout Ireland :—

“ *Marlborough-street, Dublin,*

“ DEAR SIR,

“ *30th September 1854.*

“ If you glance over my letter to LORD MORPETH, a copy of which I enclose, it will not be necessary for me to say more than that I am willing to supply the means of bringing out, and supporting for one year, as an experiment, such a JOURNAL as I have described, provided that you, and some other friends of Popular Education (to whom I have addressed a similar communication), think that it would materially promote the great object which we have in view. You will oblige me, therefore, by letting me know your opinions on the subject as soon as convenient.

“ The proposed Journal will be published by a respectable Bookseller, and conducted by a competent and responsible Editor, that is, he will be bound to conduct it in strict accordance with the *Principles* announced in the *Prospectus*.

“ Its great object will be to promote and improve Popular Education in Ireland—*Physical, Intellectual, Industrial, and Moral*.

“ It will not be connected with, nor under the control of any Society or Board; but will take an independent and impartial view of the whole field of Popular Education.

“ It will do for the Teachers in this country what M. GUIZOT promised to do for the Primary Teachers in France; and it will probably be called the ‘Teacher’s Manual,’ or ‘Journal of Popular Education.’

“ It will be published once a month, and sold at the lowest possible price, probably at the rate of 3s. per annum, if paid in advance, or 4s. if stamped and sent through the Post Office.”

“ I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

“ ROBERT SULLIVAN.”

On the 1st January, 1856, the first number of the proposed Journal was published, under the name of “Papers on Popular Education, Original and Selected, for the Use of the Managers and Teachers of Elementary Schools;” but failing to obtain the amount of literary aid which I had expected, and finding that my health was no longer equal to the labour of editing and

conducting it, I was obliged to discontinue it after the publication of three monthly numbers. Into these three numbers, however, I succeeded in throwing a systematic account of the most important principles of education and school-keeping; and also an explanation of my views on some points connected with education which had been misrepresented or misunderstood.

In conclusion, I think it right to state, that I alone am responsible for this Letter; and that, till it appeared in print, it was not seen by any of the Commissioners, nor even by you to whom it is addressed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT SULLIVAN.

The Secretaries of the National  
Education Board.

## APPENDIX.

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### APPENDIX A.

“ A few of the Catholic officers of the National Board are authors of excellent works, some of which enjoy the highest repute among the inspectors and the teachers here, and which are so approved as to be placed on the list of Her Majesty’s Committee of Council in England, and the Irish Commissioners have refused, without assigning any just cause, to afford the benefit of such works to the National Schools. This is only a very small part of the unfair treatment to Catholic authors, and to a people with half a million of children in their schools, whilst the Commissioners *advanced* the public money to other officers to enable them to bring out works which enjoyed but a brief circulation, even the mildest and most tolerant of Catholic ecclesiastics—Archbishop Murray—having voted them off the class list as objectionable; but the author so favoured by the Board had left his early but *unfavoured* faith. By this monopoly the Board have made fortunes for some favoured authors.”

Now, in the preceding extract there is, as I shall show, scarcely a word of truth:—

1. If the Board refused to place upon their list a work written by “a Catholic officer,” it must have been either because it was not required—*the want for it having been already supplied*—or because it was not considered suitable for the purpose.

2. The Board, to my knowledge, have been obliged to refuse many excellent works written by, or belonging to, “Protestants,” because they were not required.

3. There are works written by “Catholic officers” on the Board’s list.

4. The works referred to (as “written by Catholic officers and refused by the Board”), are not “on the list of Her Majesty’s Committee of Council;” and even if they were, this would prove nothing as to their merits; for every work on Elementary Education is, *if offered at a reduced price*, placed upon it *without examination*, and, consequently, without any mark of approbation on the part of the Committee. The Committee expressly state this; and they tell the managers of schools receiving grants from them to examine the books on their list, and to select for themselves; and in a system which

comprises schools of every denomination, nothing else could be done. In fact, the Committee expressly state that they will strike off their list any book which will be advertised by the author or publisher as "approved of or recommended by them." And yet we are told that "the Board refused works written by Catholic officers which were so approved as to be placed on the list of Her Majesty's Committee of Council in England." But the authors of the works referred to—or rather the author of the work referred to—was not placed in a worse position than I was. He had the public to appeal to; and if his work possesses the extraordinary merits claimed for it, it must, long since (for it was published fourteen years ago), have become a standard class-book in public schools, not only in this country, but in Great Britain and the Colonies.

5. The Board never advanced a shilling of the public money to any of their officers to enable them to bring out their works. This calumny refers to me, and the only foundation for it is the use of the word "*advanced*" in the official agreement between the Board and me with regard to the purchase of 2,000 copies of my "*Lectures and Letters on Popular Education*," which I had *previously* brought out at my own expense. By referring to the Secretaries' letter, page 12, and to my letter, page 7, it will be seen that the Board neither "*enabled*" nor encouraged me to bring out the work in question.

6. In page 11 I have shown that there is no foundation whatever for the calumny in the remaining part of the sentence, namely, that "Archbishop Murray voted this book off the price list as objectionable."

7. And, lastly, under Appendix B, which follows, I have fully exposed the falsehood of the statement that "the author so favoured by the Board had left his early but *unfavoured* faith."

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## APPENDIX B.

"Another of Archbishop Whately's friends directs the Training Department, in which the Catholic teachers of Ireland are prepared to instruct hundreds of thousands of Catholic children. This gentleman, too, was once a Catholic; but, becoming a Protestant, he was recommended by Archbishop Whately for a place in the National Board, and he now has the sole direction of the Training Department, heretofore shared jointly with a Catholic officer."

The above is quoted from the *Catholic Telegraph* of the 17th of April; and, *on the same day*, a similar statement was made in the *Tablet*. This led me to address the following letter to

the editors, which they inserted in the next publication of their respective journals:—

“*Education Office, April 20th, 1858.*”

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE TELEGRAPH.

“SIR,

“I beg to draw your attention to the enclosed letter, which was addressed by me to the editor of the *Tablet*, on Saturday last. I understand that it will appear in the next publication of the *Tablet*; and, as you have been similarly misinformed regarding me (as appears by your paper of Saturday last), I request that you will insert a copy of it in your next publication.

“I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.”

(Copy.)

“*Education Office, 17th April, 1858.*”

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE TABLET.

“SIR,

“In your publication of to-day, under the head of ‘National Education,’ you state—‘The sole head of the Training Department, Dr. Sullivan, is, we are told, another convert from Romanism.’ Now, as I never was, at any period of my life, a Roman Catholic, I cannot, with truth, be set down as ‘a convert from Romanism.’ I was baptized and brought up as a Protestant; I entered Trinity College as a Protestant; I was called to the bar as a Protestant; and I was, *six and twenty years ago*, appointed one of the four Original Inspectors, under the Board, *as a Protestant*. So far as I am personally concerned, I would not have considered it necessary to notice the misstatement; but, as it is calculated to injure the Institution with which I am connected, I feel myself called upon to contradict it in the strongest possible manner.

“I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“ROBERT SULLIVAN.”

And in the *Tablet* of the 8th of May is the following paragraph, prominently placed:—

“We inserted, a fortnight ago, Dr. Sullivan’s contradiction of the report, that he had been a Roman Catholic, and mentioned that a similar report respecting Mr. — had been contradicted, too. In justice to our informant, on whose authority these facts were alleged, we called his attention to the contradiction, and asked for an explanation. Having received it, we are bound to say that, in both cases, the contradiction stands, and that we exceedingly regret having given circulation to the statement.”

The editor then charitably adds, that “we are satisfied that our informant believed it to be true when he made the statement.” In this I cannot agree with him.

I should add, that a similar statement appeared, about the same time, in the *Nation* newspaper, and also in the *Freeman's Journal*; and that the editors, when their attention was drawn to it, published my letter to the *Tablet*, in contradiction of it: the former journal on the 24th of April, and the latter, on the 4th of May.

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### APPENDIX C.

Evidence of the Right Honourable A. R. Blake, before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on Education, Ireland, *Martis 11<sup>o</sup>, die Augusti*, 1838. This evidence has been reprinted by the Board, in the Appendix of their Third Report, 1836:—

3430.—“When an appointment is to be made, the candidates for it appear before the Board successively; each candidate is examined by the Board. The members of the Board note his examination, each according to his own views of it; and, after the examination is over, the Commissioners compare notes, and then express their opinions *seriatim*.”

3431.—“To what subject does the examination generally apply?—It applies to the particular duties of the office for which the person is a candidate: the examination of persons, for instance, for Inspectorships, goes to the whole course of education—the whole practical system.”

3434.—“Do you require any certificate of moral character?—We always require certificates of character.”

3435.—“Do you make any inquiries with respect to religion?—We did not at first, but we do now, with a view of mixing Protestants and Roman Catholics as much as possible together. The first appointment of Inspectors that took place was immediately after the appointment of the Board. Several persons appeared before us as candidates; each Commissioner examined. After the examination was over, from the number that was before us we had to select four; and it did so happen that, without knowing any thing of the religion of the parties, we each selected the same four, and of these four so selected two were Protestants, and two were Roman Catholics.”

3436.—“What time does the examination generally last?—It lasts some hours.”

I am glad to say that Popular Education has still the advantage of the services of one of the three candidates appointed with me at the time referred to. I refer to Thomas Jaffray Robertson, Esq., who, after having served the Board faithfully and efficiently for many years—first, as Inspector, and subsequently as Head-Inspector, was, on their recommendation, appointed to organize and conduct the Government Normal and Training Schools in Upper Canada.

## APPENDIX D.

In my evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on the Irish System of Education, in the year 1837, I gave a list of the books which I found in the majority of the schools which I inspected in the year 1832; and to prove that they were in course of publication at that period in different parts of Ireland for the use of schools (as Dublin, Belfast, and Limerick), I handed in the title-pages of many of them. I also added—“These are far from being the worst of the class. Glasgow sends into Ireland many grossly indelicate books, which are found in Hedge schools. Such books are published by ‘the Flying Stationers,’ or hawkers.” I then read a note from my Report on Bruskernagh Applicant School, parish of Clones, county Monaghan, in the year 1832—“The majority of the children were without books. Among the tattered and defaced leaves which some of them had, I observed about a dozen Roman Catholic catechisms and prayer-books, and three or four controversial tracts. I also found ‘The History of Valentine and Orson,’ ‘The History of Brute, and how he Conquered King Albion and his Giants,’ ‘The Rape of Fair Helen of Greece;’ and a defaced and almost illegible volume of Locke’s Essay, with several nondescripts. In two other schools which I visited the same day (Deerpark and Greagawarren), the books in use are of a similar character.”\*—*Commons’ Committee, Question 7704.*

\* “The Lives and Actions of the most famous Irish Highwaymen, Tories, and Rapparees;” “Redmond O’Hanlon, the famous Gentleman Robber;” and “Captain Freney, the Robber;” were favourite books, at that period, in schools of this class. I often found, too, at that time, in such schools, the newspapers of the day folded up in the form of books, and not unfrequently *old almanacs*. In fact, the children brought with them to school any thing they could get in the form of a book.