

87

New York City, .

April 3d, 1896.

To

His Honor,

The Mayor of New York City,

Sir:

We, the undersigned,
citizens of New York City, deeply interested in the welfare of
its children, and familiar with that measure for the improvement
of our public school system which is known as the Pavey-Page
Compromise School bill, do earnestly beg and pray that when
it comes before Your Honor for your official signature, it may
promptly meet with your approval.

(Signed)

Henry Holt.

14 E. 54 St.

Vernon H. Hudson

173 Fifth Ave.

Emile Van Buren

Ed Hamilton Bell Secretary Municipal Art Society
N.Y.

Cor Hamilton Bell

48 East 20th St

John Dufais -

128 East 24th
St.

William A. Coffin, 1st Vice President Municipal Art Society

58 West 57th St.

Lydia G. Givens

9 West 9th St.

J. Morgan Howe M.D.

58 West 47th St

John Morris

Jefferson Market

Amelia W. Howland

14 West 9th St.

THE SQUIRRELS,
HIGHLAND FALLS ON HUDSON.

April 4. 96

Hon. W. L. Strong

My Dear Sir

I understand
that the Savoy Compromise
School bill has passed the
two houses of the Legislature
and now only lacks your
official approval for its final
adoption. I am so fully
impressed with its efficacy
in checking some of the
abuses of our School System

in New York City that
I ventured to express to you
the hope that you will find
it consistent with your
sense of duty to allow the
bill to become a law
so far as that depends
upon you. Though it
may not accomplish all
the good its friends profess
to expect from it - laws
rarely do - it can hardly
fail to correct many

chronic abuses.

I am dear Sir

With great respect

Your Very Obedient Servant

Wm. Briggs

New York City,

April 4th, 1896.

To His Honor,

The Mayor of New York City,

Sir:

During our terms of service, as Your Honor's appointees, in inspecting the condition of the schools contained in the Fifth School District of New York City, we have become convinced that many of the defects we have found, in their business and their educational management, spring unavoidably from defects in the system under which all the schools of the city are administered.

We are familiar with that measure for the alteration of this system, known as the Pavey-Page Compromise School bill, which, it appears, will soon be sent to Your Honor by the Legislature for your official sanction.

We believe this measure to be in every way a desirable one, tending surely and forcibly toward the amelioration of the defects now visible in the schools and the school system of our city.

Therefore (feeling this to be our privilege and our duty as Your Honor's appointees to our present positions) we unanimously pray that the aforesaid bill may receive your official endorsement.

Your obedient servants,

Ellen Collins
41 West Eleventh St.

M. L. Van Rensselaer
9 West 9th Street

J. Milton Abbott, M.D.
11 Fifth Avenue

Inspectors

for the

Fifth

School
District

of New York City.

FULTON MCMAHON,
COUNSELOR AT LAW,
111 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK.

4 April 1896

To His Honor, the Mayor —

Dear Sir —

Should the Bill for
the reform of the Public
Schools by abolishing the
ward trustees come before
you, I desire, in behalf
of myself and many citizens
(of both parties), to be known
as earnestly approving the
measure.

Your obedient servant,

Fulton McMahon



29 WEST TWENTY-THIRD STREET,
NEW YORK.

April 4, 1896

Dear Sir:

As you probably want to know where your constituents stand regarding the Reform School Bill, I take the liberty of expressing my earnest hope that it will meet with your approval.

*Respectfully Yours,
Henry Holt.*

Hon. William R. Strong,
Mayor, City of New York

LAW OFFICE OF
E. ELLERY ANDERSON,

E. ELLERY ANDERSON,
P. CHAUNCEY ANDERSON,
GEORGE FLINT WARREN, JR.

10 WALL STREET.

Cable Address
"OGANRIDER NEWYORK."

New York April 4th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have examined with some care the act in relation to the common schools and public education in the City of New York which has recently passed and is now before you for your approval or disapproval. As Chairman of the Commission appointed under Chap. 532 of the Laws of 1893, which Commission was created to Revise the Laws Affecting Common Schools and Public Education in the City of New York, I and my associates had occasion to examine the subject-matter involved in this bill with great care. I also served as Trustee of the Public Schools in the 21st Ward from 1875 to 1890, and may therefore, I think, lay claim to some knowledge both of the practical and theoretical sides of the question.

In so far as the discussion both in the Legislature and the public press has been conducted with reference to the personal merits or demerits of the trustees themselves, it does not appear to me to rise to the real merits of the propositions involved. We are really concerned with the matter of putting in operation in this great City the best possible system, and our decision should not rest upon the occasional failures of

individual trustees but should be determined simply by the question whether the proposed bill is based upon principles which will give the best and most efficient results. The principal objection to the present system is not that trustees are inefficient, nor is it even that trustees are often actuated by favoritism or that their appointments are brought about by political influences. The real objection is that under present laws almost every subject-matter connected with the public schools and the education of our children is under the control of more than one body of officials. The jurisdiction of the trustees of the Board of Education, of the City Superintendent and of the Superintendent of Buildings encroach upon each other in reference to almost all the subjects which are entrusted to their care. All these bodies are entitled to some voice in relation to matters of discipline, to the courses of study, to the promotion and transfer of teachers, to the general administration of instruction in schools, to the establishment of new schools, to the selection of new sites, construction of new buildings and the matter of repairs; and the necessary result is inefficient action, delays sometimes almost intolerable in the discharge of simple duties, which under a simpler form of control would be easily and instantly executed, and especially an avoidance of responsibility by shifting the blame from one of the controlling bodies to another.

A method of administration which may have been

found to work satisfactorily in villages or small towns is often found to be entirely impracticable when attempted to be applied in crowded populations where prompt and harmonious action affecting large numbers and many interests are essential.

In my judgment, the trustee system is not suited to the City of New York, and I believe this to be the opinion of all persons who have made the subject a study and who are free from personal interests. Under the existing law each set of trustees exercises in a limited way a sort of sovereignty in each ward or division district which is under the control of the local Board. The system which should be put in force in this City should possess the following features:

1. A Board of Education which shall have general control of the whole subject-matter, and which shall be vested with ultimate power over all matters relating to the appointment of school officials to the course of study and to the management of the school property.

2. A Board of Superintendents which shall consist of men who are experts in their business and who shall have the direct charge of the supervision, of the instruction in the schools, of the classes and of the teachers. It should be their function to advise the Board of Education as to all appointments of teachers, as to alterations, amendments or changes to be made in the course of instruction; and all eligible lists should be under their control.

3. The care of the school property should be under a single head, subject to the control of the Board of Education, but having direct power to carry into effect matters necessary for the preservation of the school property and to direct all repairs and alterations.

The proposed act seems to me to fulfill all these requirements, and I therefore earnestly commend it to you for approval.

Yours very truly,

E. Henry Anderson

KUHN, LOEB & CO.

27 & 29 Pine Street,

New York April 6th 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

The Reform School Bill having passed the Senate, and having been favorably reported to the Assembly, is likely to reach you shortly for your approval or disapproval.

Having been for a considerable time a Commissioner of Education, I have with special interest followed the management and development of the educational affairs of our city. I have become strongly impressed, that, if we ever are to have a management of our schools free from political and other undesirable influences, and solely in the interests of a wholesome education of our youth, the Trustee system should be abolished. While the measure which is likely to come before you is by no means an ideal one, it will vastly improve existing methods, and I therefore respectfully but earnestly recommend that you give your approval of the bill after it has reached you, and before it is returned to Albany.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

Robert H. Schiff

THE FIFTH AVENUE BANK
OF NEW YORK

New York, April 6th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:

Although we have been favored by you from time to time in the matter of checking our paper, this is the first suggestion or request I have made of you regarding municipal affairs.

I venture to hope that you will see your way clear to favor the School Bill, which has passed the Senate and been favorably reported by the Cities Committee of the Assembly.

I need not make any argument to you as you are better acquainted with the subject than I am. It is a shame that New York has not a better school system, and the elimination of the trustees would, I think, be an improvement.

I am, with much respect,

Yours very truly,

A. S. Mitchell

Providence Line.

Office of President.

Stonington Line.

*Providence & Stonington Steamship Company,
New Pier 36, North River.*

J. W. Miller, President.

New York,

April 6th, 1896 .

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York City

City Hall, N.Y.

S I R :--

Please permit me as a citizen much interested in the public schools, to respectfully ask you to approve the "Reform School Bill" , which has lately passed the Senate .

The bill places the executive and educational responsibility where it should in my opinion be; does away with the ill effects of the present trustee system, and at the same time, through the local inspectors, gives each locality or district proper representation .

Respectfully,

Wm. L. Miller

REAL ESTATE OFFICE OF
H. H. CAMMANN & Co.,
51 LIBERTY STREET.

HERMANN H. CAMMANN. NEWBOLD T. LAWRENCE.
GEORGE P. CAMMANN.

CABLE ADDRESS: "LETRADO,"

TELEPHONE: "CORTLANDT 1328."

(Dictated) New York, April 6, 1896.

To His Hon. Mayor Strong,

City Hall, New York.

Dear Sir:

In the matter of the School Reform Bill which will be before you for consideration in a few days, I earnestly request your favorable action, as the Bill will be of much assistance in improving the public school system in which all citizens feel so deep an interest.

With much respect

Your obedient servant,

H. H. Cammann

Citizen Major Strong
Don't forget *Go down down*

EASTER EDITION:



Copyrighted, 1892.

Vol. VI. No. 152.

New York, April 6, 1896.

Price, 10 Cents.

SWAN GIN

A central illustration depicts a pond with several swans swimming. The scene is framed by an ornate border featuring decorative elements like vases and floral motifs. Four circular medallions, each containing a swan and the text "MEDER WP & ZOON", are positioned at the corners of the frame.

FERD. RUTTMANN & SON.
SOLE AGENTS NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIBE FOR TAMMANY TIMES, \$1.00 FOR 3 MONTHS.

Allegory of the Tammany Times
The Tammany Times

EASTER EDITION.



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Vol. VI. No. 152.

New York, April 6, 1896.

Price, 10 Cents.

SWAN GIN

FERD. RUTTMANN & SON.
SOLE AGENTS NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIBE FOR TAMMANY TIMES, \$1.00 FOR 3 MONTHS.

Mr. O'Grady moved the previous question. The question then recurred upon a motion by Mr. Stanchfield to recommit. The roll call was interrupted toward the end by Mr. Stanchfield, who arose with a telegram in his hand.

To Leader O'Grady.—If you pass the Page-Pavey Compromise School bill, I guarantee the death of the Republican party.
GEO. FRANCIS TRAIN.

The motion of Mr. Stanchfield was lost, ayes, 70; noes, 42.
The bill then was passed, ayes 88, noes 43.

CONTINENTAL HOTEL,
Broadway and 20th St.,
NEW YORK.

THE TAMMANY TIMES.

(Publication continues every week!—Send Subs. 61 W. 15, Nos. (\$1, 3 mos.)

SCHOOL BILL.

ERS GROAN-
PUBLIC
HIP!

Citizen Train Boycotts Politics in Public Schools.

(Rescuing Half-Billion 'Tots' of 'Greater New York' from 'Demagogic Spoil Hunters in Platt-Morton-Raines Bill-G. O. P. Combine!')

Citizen Train arrived too late, and there were too many Orators loaded to the muzzle (At the Grand Protest of Six Thousand School Teachers) at 'Crystal Palace-Indignation Meeting,' against Legislating Out Trustees through The 'Pavey-Four-Hundred Set Bill' to speak more than Ten Minutes, but the Lightning Flashes waked up the Multitude to Wildest Cheers!) When Citizen Teacher Moorhouse, and The Committee, asked me half an hour ago to be present I had Two Engagements (said the Citizen, when Ovation received gave him a moment to speak), but Half-Million 'Tots' about being 'Weyler-Ized' (Laughter) by 'Hayseed-Hard Cider-Puritan-Blue Laws' (Loud Laughter) can make me break any Engagements if I can help their Six Thousand Kind and Noble Teachers to checkmate an Outrage on The People's Schools! (Loud Cheers!) Compare this Grand Assemblage of Educated Intellect under these Convention Flags with volunteers of Liberty, Guardians of Morality and Temperance, nearer almost to the Children, than their Parents and Friends (Applause), with Packed-Conventions of 'Impecunious Hayseeds' I saw under these same Flags night before Last! (Tremendous Applause and Laughter.) They stood on Chairs, tore down McKinley's Flag (Sensation), and it seemed 'Boss Menagerie' broke loose in Hades, trying to get in out of cold, in warmer Place just beyond! (Roars of Laughter.) 'Pavey—Lexow—Fish—and the Platt Army on Stage, who want to steal your School System that Night, headed the Riot! (Laughter.) But Milholland scored Victory of Hundred Votes for McKinley against Raines' attack on Ice Cream, Soda Water and Sarsaparilla for 'Tots!' (Roars of Merriment.)

CITIZEN TRAIN CHEERS ORATORS ON STAGE!

The Eloquent Speeches of Judge Allison, your Honored Chairman (Applause) Mr. Blake, Mrs. Williams (Applause) De Sola Mendes, Judge McCarthy (Applause) have left me nothing to say at this late hour, but to notify Albany I see Handwriting on Wall, ending their Goth and Vandal Career if Platt dares to demoralize our Public Schools with Demagogue-Political-Chicanery! (Excited Cheers.) Our Fashion-Nobles insult Mankind in Pavey Bill of 'Spoil-Bosses,' forgetting Half Thousand Can't equal Three Millions! (Applause.) We have no 'Aristocracy'

Since 'Beacon Street, Graved Otis-Tribe,'
And Rush, Out rushed the Poverty,
Which Shoddy Wealth, Fashion decried!
(Applause.)
McAllister's 'Four-Hundred Set'
Gould, Astor, Whitney, Vanderbilt,

Are Accidents of Golden Debt,
'Colossal Population' Built. (Applause.)
Wealth's largest Fortunes, Built on Guilt!
Old Kings and Queens are Underground,
Strangers now own These Palace Homes
In Tropic and in Arctic Zones,
Colossal Wealth is Bugle-Sound! (Sensation.)
When Murray Hill, backed by Hewitt,
Strikes Public Schools, Sports Deadly Blow,
Teachers say they cannot do it,
As Bunker Hill of Long ago!
(Continued Cheers.)

'400 SET' AGAINST 3,000,000 SET OF GREATER NEW YORK!

Oh! Yes! (said Citizen).
The Battle is Rich against Poor! 'Four Hundred Set' against Half Million 'Tots!' (Cheers.) 'Pavey-Hewitt-Aristocrats,' (so-called) against Tax Payers and Workers, who are Self-Content with their ill-paid Six Thousand Teachers in our Public Schools! (Excited Cheers.) Patronage - Political-Party - Spoils - Platt - Soup is back of 'Pavey's-Asphalt-Pavement!' (Roars of Laughter.) I endorse the Resolutions so Eloquently presented by Trustee Rush, only they are not Strong Enough against the Platt outrage! (Cheers.) But John C. Sheehan, Leader of Tammany, will call Public meetings in Twenty-four Wards where Hundred and Twenty Trustees (unpaid) will be Packed by Six Thousand (paid) Teachers and Parents of Half Million 'Tots!' (Wild Cheers.)

Though name from Wealth and Birth descends,

It does not make the Noble-Man
His Honor Bright, on Self depends,
To win fair name of Honest-Man!

(Applause.)
Does Rose, by changing Name, lose scent,
Does Word Gazelle, make lovely Eyes?
What's in a name to win Life Prize,
So often used to show contempt,

(Applause.)
No Coronet (says Gay) can hide
Great Name of Arrogance and Pride!
Iscariot-Arnold-Cataline,
Are Names accursed in History,
And Thousand Names of Victory
Are 'Platt Ring Records' of Wild Crime!

(Cheers.)
Worth makes the Man in Roll-of Fame
Yet Highest Name may Title Shame!

(Applause.)
And that is why we Hiss To-night
The 'Pavey-Hewitt-Spoil Ring Bill,'
To show in Unity our might,
Of Protest (which is Childhood's Right)
Against Scamps trying Schools to Kill!
(Hisses for Albany, groans for 'Pavey-Isms!')

LIVE ORATORS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES!

Ex-Assembly John Connelly, Lawson N. Fuller (with his Six Horse-In-Hand through Central Park) (Laughter), Dr. Wise and my old Fourth-of-July Friend Hosea Perkins as your Orators, 'There isn't any danger, don't you be afraid, for Dad's the engineer!'

Like Fire Flies in the Darkest Night
(No matter whether Fog or Mist,
Who mark their way with their own light)
The Children find Fond Friend they
kissed! (Applause.)

They come (As Animals to me),
To cheer me with their loving Words
As Sparrows come (with Flocks and Herds),
As through the Air comes Honey Bee
In 'Nature's-Psychic-Sympathy!' (Cheers.)
The Dogs and Kittens love me too,
And Flowers sip their Morning Dew
(For me) with Music-Melody
In Nature's Rainbow-Interview!
And how delightful Sun and Air
Fill atmosphere with Life's-Ozone
In Occult Ether in my Home,
Life hood of Pleasure Debonnair,
Summer and Winter Twenty Years
Surrounded by my little Peers
Child Life Friends of Madison Square!
(Applause.)

And this is why that I am here
To check the 'Pavey Bunco Steer'
And save our Schools from Grizzly Bear!
(Tremendous cheers for The Sage of Madison Square and Tammany Times.)

'COOPER INSTITUTE ARISTOCRATS!'

Yes! (said Citizen Train to his enthusiastic audience). Who are back of this 'Pavey Bill?' Those who sneer at our Schools from their Palace Homes on Fifth Avenue and Murray Hill! (Applause and Hisses for Public School enemies.) Those who send their Children to Private Schools look upon Schools for Labor Army as 'Charity Institutions!' (Hisses for 'Pavey-Isms!') Let Ex-Mayor Hewitt (an old School-Teacher), always complaining of 'Measels, Gout, Lumbago, Diabetes,' Whooping Cough (Laughter) and Mumps, go back to his 'Howling Dogs—and Carlyle-Roosters' at Washington and leave our Public Schools alone! (Roars of merriment and Groans for 'Hewitt-Isms!') This New 'Compromise-Pavey-Bill' wipes out Board of Education for paid gang of 'Hayseed-Politicians!' (Hisses for outraging Education!) Compare this orderly gathering—These 'Intellectual Orators, No Cigars in mouth (Applause). No Oaths—No Vulgarity, (Applause), with Platt's, Lake overflow Erie, Ontario and Hudson River Dead-Headed from Tioga 'Me-Too-Fund' (Laughter to 'Knock-out' Hundred and Twenty Unpaid Trustees of our Grand School System for Paid Board of 'Raines Bill Politicians!' (Groans for 'Spoil Hunters!')

'Tis natural to young defend,
And Worm will turn when trod upon,
Doves fight for Brood, until Death's End,
And Atoms battle for the Sun!
The Wren will fight Platt Mousing-Owl,
The smallest Insect fights for young,
The Mouse faces Hyena's Howl,
And Cur in danger gives out tongue!
(Applause.)

The 'Courage of Maternity,'
The Love of Mother for her Child,
Will brave great odds (Offspring reviled)
In Evolution's Victory! (Applause.)
The Locust and the 'Katy-Did,'
(As Humans) love their Babies well,
Always ringing their alarm Bell
(In danger) in the Green-Trees hid,
Creation in Life's Pyramid! (Applause.)
So Six Thousand Teachers Hiss Fools
Knaves-Bosses-And Party Rogues
Who play P att Role of Demagogues
In Striking down our Public Schools!
(Loud cheers and clapping of hands!)

If you don't, I will - well I want to say, for I feel in Air - that you will see my Bill

Dear Citizen Mayor!

200 like newspapers men endorsed at Birmingham - Just Estle Pers Reception
State Affairments - Walter's my nomination as Governor of the State! I meant it! Now please
read this and decide with the People's children instead of those who do not send Tots to Public School!

The New York Press

DAILY EDITION.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1896.

Mr. O'Grady moved the previous question: The question then recurred upon a motion by Mr. Stanchfield to recommitt. The roll call was interrupted toward the end by Mr. Stanchfield, who arose with a telegram in his hand.

To Leader O'Grady.—If you pass the Page-Pavey Compromise School bill, I guarantee the death of the Republican party.
GEO. FRANCIS TRAIN.

The motion of Mr. Stanchfield was lost, ayes, 79; noes, 42.

The bill then was passed, ayes 88, noes 43.

CONTINENTAL HOTEL,
Broadway and 20th St.,
NEW YORK.

action)
Nos.

S

ERS GROAN-
PUBLIC
HIP!

THE SCHOOL BILL PASSED

IT NOW COMES TO MAYOR FOR HIS ACTION.

Assembly Puts the Bill Through This Afternoon by a Vote of 88 to 43—Davidson Offered a Referendum Amendment, Which Was Voted Down—An Animated Debate—The Bill Abolishes the School Trustees of This City

ALBANY, April 7.—The Pavey-Page compromise New York city School bill passed the Assembly this afternoon by a vote of 88 ayes to 43 noes. The bill now goes to Mayor Strong for his approval or disapproval.

The bill was a special order in the Assembly this morning. When it was reached Minority Leader Stanchfield was not in his seat and its consideration was postponed until he arrived.

Those who were scheduled to speak against the bill were Assemblymen Stanchfield, Finn, Trainor, Davidson, Thomas Donnelly, Kemper, Butts, Hoffman, Green and Norton. Those on the list at present to speak for the bill were Assemblymen O'Grady, Austin, Laimbeer, H. T. Andrews and Horton.

Shortly afterward when Mr. Stanchfield arrived, Mr. O'Grady called up the bill.

An amendment was offered by Mr. Davidson providing that the question of the advisability of the bill be submitted to a vote of the people. Mr. Davidson regretted, he said, that the bill had not been recommitment to the Cities Committee for a hearing. "What is this bill?" asked Mr. Davidson. "It provides for legislating out of office the present Board of Education in New York city. The bill is not wanted by the city of New York. The people there lay it on a mass meeting and denounced the bill. Will the Legislature ride rough shod over the will of the people? The measure was promulgated by aistic people, who knew nothing of the desires of the masses. They were not in touch with the common people. It is suggested that teachers gain positions now by political influence, but even if they do and are qualified to teach, that argument falls to the floor. I have heard the argument of Senator Ford in the Senate, and have been chagrined that a Senator of the State should take the stand that he has. The teachers of New York city do not deserve the treatment they have received at the hands of that Senator. They are an intelligent and honorable body of people. I ask the majority to join with the minority representation from New York in killing the bill."

Mr. Trainor supported the Davidson referendum amendment. The Governor had recommended that a bill revising New York city school laws be passed, but in the recommendation he had said that the people in New York city favored the abolition of the ward trustees in New York. To this Mr. Trainor took exception. The bill now was in the interest of the aristocratic element of New York city, but they did not allow their children to mingle with the common ones, but sent their children to preparatory schools. The pupils in New York schools were superior to any in the world in point of education. As evidence of this Mr. Trainor pointed to Annapolis and West Point, where New York school boys have taken precedence over collegians. Was the Legislature now to forget the interest of the people? Were they to take notice of the actions of a man named Reynolds, who had made serious charges against the school system?

Mr. Trainor read newspaper criticisms upon the measure. Then continuing, he said that the bill did not change the law so much that it would take the School Board out of politics. Wise men had arisen and denounced the bill. Was it to be supposed that the proposed new managers of the school system were so noble, so far above the ordinary man, that they could not be moved by political influence? This was unreasonable as it was untrue. Beside these arguments, the bill legislated against the normal school girl or boy, and thus the Legislature proposed to ignore the very people they had educated. Those who had advised the Governor in recommending the passage of the bill before the House had considered it had used the Governor as a tool.

"The gentleman is out of order and unparliamentary in his speech regarding the Governor," interrupted the Speaker.

Mr. Trainor apologized for his language, and said that in referring to the Governor he had not meant that the Governor had been used as a tool.

An amendment was then offered by Mr. Finn, who asked for the attention of the Civil Service reformers while it was read.

It provided that the proposed superintendent and assistant superintendent shall pass Civil Service competitive examinations, the examinations to be conducted by professors of the Normal College and the College of New York.

There was no reason, Mr. Finn said, why there should not be a qualification established for the superintendents, and who, he asked, was so qualified to examine them as the head of the Normal schools of the city?

Mr. H. T. Andrews favored the bill and opposed the amendments. In advocacy of his argument, Mr. Andrews read various articles which opposed the system of education at present in vogue. The bill would eliminate politics from the school system. In the city there were 4,000 school teachers, and the proposed change would be the best thing for them, and at the same time would purify the system greatly.

Mr. T. F. Donnelly opposed the bill because of the abolition of ward trustees. An attempt had been made to depict the trustee as a politician, who generally stood in front of his favorite saloon with a weed stuck in his mouth at an angle of 45 degrees. An attempt had also been made to prove that the teacher whom the trustees appointed was of similar calibre.

Mrs. Edward Lauterbach was in the Assembly Chamber this morning while the debate on the School bill was going on, and evinced much interest in the proceedings. Assemblyman H. T. Andrews, who spoke for the bill, had several conferences with her. She also had a conference with Leader O'Grady.

Assemblyman Finn's amendment was lost by a vote of 81 noes to 45 ayes.

The Davidson referendum amendment was lost by a vote of 41 ayes to 83 noes. Several other amendments were defeated and the bill was advanced to a third reading.

The vote was then taken on final passage the result being 88 ayes to 43 noes.

PAVEY'S REMARKABLE BILL.

It Would Give the Board of Education a Large Amount of Patronage.

Mayor Strong has fixed next Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock as the time for a public hearing on the Pavey School bill to abolish ward trustees. The bill reached the Mayor today. It is a remarkable measure and strong opposition will no doubt develop at the hearing.

In addition to abolishing the office of school trustee, the bill provides that the Board of Education may appoint as many assistant superintendents of schools as it deems necessary and fix their salaries. The Board is also authorized to appoint a superintendent of school buildings, who must be an architect of reputation, and fix his salary. The Superintendent of Buildings is to have an assistant and all the clerical force he wants.

The Board of Education is also empowered to appoint all the clerks it wants and fix their salaries. The bill legislates all the present school inspectors out of office on June 30 and empowers the Mayor to appoint others to fill their places. The inspectors are to serve without salary and their duties are by this bill made substantially the same as those of the salaried assistant superintendents, except that the latter are to examine teachers and nominate applicants for appointment.

The assistant superintendents are to succeed to most of the duties of the present trustees, who serve without pay.

The bill places in the hands of the Board of Education the power to create more patronage than exists in any other municipal department.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

R. W. GILDER, EDITOR.
R. U. JOHNSON,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
C. C. BUEL,
ASSISTANT EDITOR.

April 7 1896

To his honor, Mayor Strong.

Dear Sir:

The undersigned,
Citizens of New York, believe
that the Carey-Page Compromise
School Bill is calculated to
improve the administration of
the schools of the City, and
respectfully express the hope
that it will receive your
official endorsement.

Robert Underwood Johnson

Clarence C. Buel

W. F. Dickinson

(Over)

Wm. W. Ellsworth,
W. F. Clarke,
W. Lewis Fraser

87

New York City,

April 7th, 1896.

To

HIS HONOR,

THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY,

Sir:

On the 14th day of March last a meeting was called by twelve independent educational and reform associations of this City, to discuss the measures for the reform of its public school system which were then before the Legislature. Its presiding officer was the Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, Chairman of that Citizens' Committee of One Hundred which had been previously created to press the need for a radical change in our School system upon the minds of the people and their representatives.

With but seven dissenting voices, those who attended this meeting endorsed the School Reform Bill which had been compiled by the Senate Committee on the Affairs of Cities, and was known as the "Pavey-Page Compromise School Bill." And thereupon Mr. Hewitt appointed a Committee of Twenty-four women to take such action as might seem needful in support of

this excellent measure.

We, the undersigned, composing the Committee aforesaid, therefore earnestly beg and pray that the Bill in question (which has been passed by large majorities in both houses of the Legislature), may without delay, receive Your Honor's signature.

The opposition which the measure has excited has come largely from within the existing School system; and, as officials or as individuals, many of us have personal knowledge that in the case of the teachers in our Schools, such opposition has been in a measure prompted by lack of accurate knowledge in regard to the provisions of the Pavey-Page Compromise Bill.

Prompt action on Your Honor's part will do much to reassure these conscientious but mistaken opponents, convincing them that their interests, no less than those of the children of New York and of the City at large, will be safe-guarded and furthered by the measures which the Pavey-

3.)

Page Compromise bill enacts.

Respectfully submitting this prayer for Your Honor's emphatic approval of the measure, we are,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)

C. A. Babbe, 11 W. 50th

Lee W. Haggins

37 5th Ave.

Alice Sterne, 108 West 58.

Mary Jay Schieffelin - 242 East 13th St.

Mary Abby Hewitt

119 E 18

J. L. Sanborn

9 West 9th Street.

(Inspector 5th School District)

Lois Adelaide Bangs

43 West 47th Street.

(Chairman Committee of Sixty)

A. R. Cross

6 Washington Square

Margaret R. Parker 55. 5th Avenue.

Sarah Minton Sedgwick 31 West 10 St
 Alma Rainford — 209 East 16th St
 (Trustee 18th Ward)
 Florence Colgate 50 East 57th St.
 (Barnard Alumnae Association)
 Louise Halston Chubb
 (Smith Alumnae of New York)
 Addie Walter Elginian 74 E. 13 St.
 Caroline S. Spencer 109 East 17th St
 Marian Thorne Scott.
 Gertrude S. Rice
 Lillian W. Betts, Mc Carthy, Chubb Hall.
 Elizabeth L. By Riverside Drive & 85th St.
 (West Side Branch Public Education Association)
 Dora Bay Emerson 124 W. 78th Street?
 (Wellesley Alumnae of New York.)
 Ellen Yale Stevens 359 W. 121. Street
 (V.P. Teachers College Alumni Association)

Miss Sheffield Brownell - 322 West 58th St
President Barnard Graduate Club.

Lillian LaBarre Blois, 507 Madison Ave.
Public Education Association.

Leont Patten Corbin -
Woman's Auxiliary to the
Civil Service Reform Association

11 W . 5 0 t h . S t r e e t ,

New York, April 7th, 1896.

To

H i s H o n o r

The MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY,

Sir:

I beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed petition which was prepared for submission to the Legislature, and never presented, it being deemed unnecessary to do so.

I pray Your Honor to note the valuable signatures which were obtained during a period of twenty-four hours, and trust that they may have due weight in your consideration of this most important measure for School Reform.

Respectfully,

Catherine A. B. Abbe

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF 24

(Appointed by Hon. Abram S. Hewitt
at Meeting of 12 federated
Societies,
United Charities Building,
Saturday eve'g, March 14, 1896)

15 Broad St

April 7, 1896.

THE HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,
Mayor of the City of New York.

My dear Sir:-

I am advised that it is probable that within a day or two there will be laid before you, for your consideration as Mayor, the Reform School Bill, specially recommended for passage by Governor Morton.

This bill, as the result of the careful investigation, consideration and labor of Messrs. E. Ellery Anderson, Stephen H. Olin, Henry L. Sprague, and others, in the year 1894, has from the beginning received my earnest support, and still ~~demands~~ my hearty approval.

No one acquainted with the public school system of the City of New York, can doubt that it falls far short of what is worthy of such a metropolitan city, and it is doubtful whether its character is equal to that of the educational system of several other municipalities in this country.

The radical idea of this bill is found in the change from the excessively local subdivision of the present administration to a single board of enlarged powers. No one like yourself, acquainted with large business affairs and the ease and advantage of administration through proper organization, can doubt that a territory not larger than that of Manhattan Island, or even the Greater New York, is within the scope of the abilities of a well-selected Board of Education; and any question as to the closer representation of the smaller districts of the municipality seems sufficiently protected by the provision for local inspectors.

As I am firmly convinced of your cordial and resolute determination to accomplish what seems to you the best interests of the City upon public grounds, I earnestly commend this bill to your acceptance and favorable consideration.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Francis Lynde Stearns

*Stickney, Spencer & Ordway,
Counselors at Law.*

*Albert Stickney,
Nelson T. Spencer,
Samuel H. Ordway.*

No. 31 Nassau Street,

New York. April 7, 1896.

Hon. James T. Kilbreth

Dear Judge Kilbreth :

I am in receipt of your letter of April 7th as to the hearing before the Mayor to-morrow.

I see very clearly the importance of the bill that you mention, and my views agree thoroughly with your own upon the subject. But I am engaged at present in a long jury trial, which makes it entirely impossible for me to appear before the Mayor upon the hearing.

I wish that my situation was other than it is, but you see how I am placed.

Very sincerely yours,

Albert Stickney

New York April 7, 1896

To The Mayor of the
City of New York

Sir I desire

Very cordially to recommend
to your favor the New School
Bill for this City such coming
before you for your official
action. In my opinion
such a decided improvement
upon the present system that
every good citizen ~~good~~
~~citizen~~ should give it his
heartly approval. There may
be some defects with as there
usually is in new systems but
they should not interfere with
approval because they can

Easily corrected hereafter as they
may develop themselves - and
that mode is far better than to
continue a bad system until
all possible defects are fully
corrected.

I am Very respectfully
Yours
Wm Davis

ASCENSION PARISH HOUSE,
12 WEST ELEVENTH STREET,
NEW YORK.

April 7th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor,
New York City.

My dear Sir:-

Will you allow me to send you a line to express to you my deep interest in the Reform School Bill? Having myself been on the school committee in a New England city I am somewhat acquainted with the methods of work in that department of city government, and my interest in the schools of New York for the last three years has familiarized me enough with the system current here to make me feel confident of the changes proposed in the Reform Bill. I am also acquainted with some of the best trustees under the present system, and my own impression is borne out by their candid disapproval of the trustee system. I am confident also that this opinion which I express is representative of a great many persons with whom I come in contact parochially and socially. I am persuaded that the disinterested intelligence of the city is in favor of the Reform Bill and that nothing but ignorance or factional politics oppose it.

Yours most truly,

Percy S. Grant.

Fox Estate Association

T. E. GRACE, Secretary,
No. 1332 Stebbins Avenue.

WILLIAM BUTLER,
President.

New York, April 8th 1896

Hon. W. Strong
Mayor

Dear Sir

I have been requested to forward
You a copy of the following
resolutions which were passed at
the last regular meeting of this
Association.

Hoping that if this matter of the
abolishment of the School trustees
comes before you, that this resolution
may have some weight

We remain Yours very respectfully

The Fox Estate Association

T. E. Grace

See

WHEREAS, A bill has been introduced in the
Legislature of this State, abolishing the Trustees of
the Public Schools, and

WHEREAS, We believe that the best interests
of the schools will further by the retaining the of-
fice of Trustee, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, as property owners and tax
payers of the Twenty-third Ward, do protest against
the enactment of any measure that has for its object
the abolition of the office of School Trustee.

The Critic

A Weekly Review of Literature and the Arts

(ESTABLISHED 1881)

JOSEPH B. GILDER
JEANNETTE L. GILDER } EDITORS

287 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

8 April 1896.

The undersigned earnestly hope
that His Honor, the Mayor, will give
his approval to the ~~Pavy~~^{Page}-Page Com-
promise School Bill when it comes
before him for consideration.

Joseph B. Gilder, 287 Fourth Ave., City

Jeannette L. Gilder 117 E. 27

A. Schaefer van Westrum 54 W. 98.

VANDERPOEL CUMING & GOODWIN.

COUNSELLORS AT LAW,
NO. 2 WALL STREET,

JAMES R. CUMING.
ALMON GOODWIN.
DELOS MC GURDY.
HENRY THOMPSON.

AUG. H. VANDERPOEL.
JOHN YARD.
RICH'D W. FREEDMAN.

NEW YORK April 8th, 1896., 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

As the bill for the re-organization and reform of the school system of this City is about to come before you for your official action thereon, I desire to urge that you will give it your approval.

I am of the opinion that the bill will effect a decided improvement in our public schools---an opinion which is based upon my own early experience as a teacher, and upon some knowledge of the actual workings of the present antiquated and inefficient system.

Very respectfully yours,

Almon Goodwin



8 April 1916.

Hon. Mayor ~~Strong~~

Sir:

Allow me to put
myself on record as
one of many citizens
who desire you to
consider favorably the
bill for the reorganization
of the administration
of the Public Schools

of the City of New
York.

I am Sir

Yours respectfully,

Robt Rutherford

No 139 E 15th St

New York, April 8th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:

We, the undersigned, members of the Executive Committee of the Committee of Seventy (1894), respectfully urge that you accept on behalf of the city the bill for the reorganization and reform of the public school system that has passed the Legislature and is now in your hands.

This bill has received the substantially unanimous support of the public press of this city without regard to party, and has been cordially endorsed and supported by representative citizens of all classes and of all shades of political faith. It has been recommended by Governor Morton in a special message to the Legislature, and has passed both Senate and Assembly by overwhelming majorities. It contains all of the essential provisions that were to be found in the school reform bill introduced into the Legislature of 1895 with the consent and approval of the Committee of Seventy. Save in one point it has had the practically unanimous approval of the present Board of Education. If this measure should become a law we believe that for the first time in a generation the public schools of this city will be organized on a rational plan and in accordance with those rules of business administration that should prevail in all departments of the city government. The abolition of the antiquated and cumbrous ward trustee system is the chief merit of the bill, and

it is this fact that has gained for it the cordial support that it has received. We earnestly ask that it be promptly accepted by you on behalf of the city of New York.

Respectfully,

Ed Stewart Smith
Jos. Lawrence

J. Kennedy Tod.

Wm A Stewart
G. L. Tires

James Taylor.

Wm B. Horsblower

W. L. Harris Roome

John L. Brown

Frederic Taylor

Wm. Truitt Jerome

COLUMBIA COLLEGE
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

April 8, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of New York.

Sir:

As a member of the executive committee of the Citizens Committee of one hundred on public school reform, I beg to urge that you will accept on behalf of the city, as promptly as possible, the public school reform bill which has passed the Legislature and is now in your hands for consideration.

This bill is an outcome of efforts lasting over fifteen years for the reform of the administration of the public schools of New York. Its principles have the endorsement of every educator of national reputation in the country, and it has commended itself to a great majority of the citizens of New York without regard to race, creed, or political affiliation. It has received support in the public press that is substantially unanimous and quite unprecedented in vigor and in amount.

The bill now before you differs in detail only from the measure drafted by the Commission appointed to revise the school laws in 1893. It differs in detail only from the measure introduced into the Legislature of 1895 by authority of the Committee of Seventy. In all of its details but one it has the unanimous approval of the present Board of Education. That one detail is the essence of the bill and consists in the provision which abolishes the local, or ward, trustee system of school government. It is, however, just

that feature of the bill that has gained for it such unprecedented support before the public and in the press, and that has enabled it to pass both Houses of the Legislature by more than a two-third's vote.

The ward trustees are, as has been amply shown in the public press, a relic of an outworn system of administration. Their present powers and functions are an entire anomaly in our whole system of municipal government, and those powers and functions have been the means of preventing the school system of this city from responding promptly, as it should have done, both to the newer movements in public education throughout the country and to the highest ideals of the citizens of New York. Were it proposed to introduce a system like this into the Department of Police, or of Public Works, or of Health, all of which affect the people directly, and concern them intimately, the preposterous character of the proposal would be apparent. It is no less absurd to expect an efficient school system with authority divided among twenty-five boards — one central and twenty-four local boards — and with responsibility easily shifted from one to the other. The present bill eliminates this indefensible feature from the school administration. It centralizes power and responsibility in the Board of Education, which meets in public and prints a journal of its proceedings. This Board can be held accountable readily and promptly for errors and for deficiencies. Provision is made by which teachers are treated as a professional class and given the protection to which they are entitled. They are to be examined for places upon the eligible list by a board of school officers, constituted of men (and it is to be hoped in the future of

women also) trained for just that kind of work. From this eligible list nominations are to be made to the Board of Education, with which the power of appointment finally rests. Further provision is made for competent executive officers to oversee the physical side of the school system under the direction of the Board of Education.

To so reasonable and business-like a measure as this it is almost inconceivable that there should be any opposition whatever. It may, I think, be said that there is in fact no opposition save that founded on either prejudice or misinformation. It is not unnatural that persons who have grown up under a given system of school administration and who have no knowledge of ~~business~~ or school administration in other cities or in other countries, should fear change. Nor is it to be wondered at that persons, especially teachers, who have been told that the bill injuriously affects their tenure of office, should express themselves violently regarding it. As a matter of fact, however, the bill does more for the teachers than for any other class in the community. It puts them upon a professional plane. It provides that their promotion shall take place on the basis of merit and long service; it securely guards them against removal, except for cause, and then only after a hearing before the Board of Education itself.

If the Board of Education takes advantage of the powers conferred upon it by this bill and passes appropriate bylaws, it will be possible to decrease, very largely, the amount of time now given by members of the Board of Education to detail work in committee and in the board. The Board of Education need hereafter only be called upon to settle questions of principle and to deal with the larger

matters of educational administration. The system provided by the bill will also, if properly administered, considerably decrease the expense of the school system; or rather it will set free money now used unnecessarily and wastefully, to be applied to the extension of school facilities and to the improvement of school instruction.

The interests of parents and localities in the schools, are far better cared for by this bill than by the ward trustee system. The inspectors to be appointed by the Mayor will be independent of the Board of Education and other school officers, and may, therefore, criticise freely the condition and work of the schools. These inspectors must be residents of the districts in and for which they are appointed. Having no patronage to ~~disburse~~ and no appropriations to disburse, they will not be tempted, as the ward trustees have been, to dabble in local politics. They will be free to give their entire time and thought to the schools, and it is confidently believed that men and women of high intelligence and the best public spirit will be found willing to occupy these responsible positions.

It is hardly to be supposed that a measure of this beneficent character, recommended to the Legislature in a special message by the Governor, passed in the Senate by a vote of 31 to 13, and in the Assembly by a vote of 88 to 43, after elaborate hearings and a discussion only equaled in length by those upon the Raines bill and the Greater New York bill, will fail of approval by the present Mayor of New York.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Minny Butler

The Society for Ethical Culture,

Society House 669 Madison Ave.

New York, April 8th, 1896

Hon. William L. Strong,

Dear Sir:--

Learning that the Reform School Bill is about to be submitted to you, I trust you will not regard it as an impertinence on my part if I write to urge you to confer a distinct benefit upon the City of New York by giving your approbation to this Bill. It does not solve our educational problem, but it is palpably a step in advance.

Very respectfully,

Julius Adler

N.W. COR. BOULEVARD & 105TH STREET, W.
NEW YORK.

April 9th 96

Dear Mr Mayor

The request has been made of me to add my voice in the direction of impressing upon you the importance of signing the School bill. While I do not believe it necessary that any steps be taken in this direction, the best sentiment of this City being overwhelmingly in its favor, I nevertheless take pleasure in saying that the bill in question being practically in line with the recommendations of a highly qualified Committee, non-partisan in character, who were appointed by your predecessor, and who pressed the salient points on which the bill

wishes, deserves the hearty support of
approval of all who recognize the necessity
of a ^{change in} system which intelligent discussion
has proven to have outgrown its usefulness

Very truly Yrs

W. L. Strong

87

Wm W. L. Strong
Mayor
City

80 Broadway.

Apr 9. /96

Hon Wm L Strong

Dear Sir

I have often wondered
when I have heard one of our
schools commended as especially
good why one should be better
than another -

I know that I used to hear
of the 12th St School as one of
peculiar excellence

I now understand
that the differing standing
of the schools is accounted for
by the fact that they are
managed by local boards
of trustees.

The law just passed
and told remedies that & that
one of its effects will be a
common standard - so that
the inhabitant of the poorest
district will have a school

of the same high grade
as that of the best.

I understand that
this result is effected by
giving many of the powers
formerly exercised by the
trustees to a body whose
jurisdiction extends over all
the schools.

I regret that I have
not examined the new law
& the old system as I should
but if the new law effects
the result above indicated
it is in my judgment a
great improvement.

Especially important
I should regard the provisions
giving to the board of superintendents
power to nominate teachers
& exercise control generally in
matters of practical education.

Such duties should be confided
to skilled paid experts such as I
understand this board to be.

Pardon these crude observations
from one whose knowledge of the proposed
law is only of its general features.

Very Respectfully,
Wm. H. Perkins

No. 208 West 42^d St.

New York April 9. 1896

Hon Wm L. Strong
Mayor of New York City
Dear Sir

I have been an active Republican worker for many years - never asked for office and don't want any. Foolish movements by our own party threaten to throw the City back under Tammany control. The Legislature has been hoodwinked into passing the so called Compromise School bill on the supposition that Tammany does not want it. The fact is that if Tammany had planned the whole thing they couldn't have done it more to their own liking. This measure will give them a stronger hold when they come into power again than they had before, because it gives them increased patronage more directly under their control. If we should

lose the City again we will have put into the hands of Tammany the very thing they want and could never get from a Republican Legislature when they were in power before.

God knows the Republicans need to make friends and win voters by wise administration, if they ever expect to stem the forces allied with Tammany.

As an active worker, in touch with hundreds of men who prefer to train with our party, I find so many becoming disgusted with the course of the party that they are quitting work and are willing to let the politicians work out their own defeat.

This School bill is one of the foolish things that should never become a law. If it does it will cost the party another ten thousand votes beside those which the Raines bill has lost.

The party can't afford any more

such losses. The City cant afford to throw away the check which the local boards of trustees are upon the Commissioner, any more than the State can afford to abolish the Assembly or Senate or Governor which are a check upon each other for the safety of the people.

The City cant afford to refuse to accept the voluntary services of public spirited citizens as trustees and pay professionals large salaries - to the extent of probably a half million dollars - to do the same work as directed by a political boss.

Will you therefore consider the wishes of the people and return said bill without your approval.

Respectfully yours

G. W. Arnold

THE NEW EDUCATION PUBLISHING COMPANY,

John Wesley Hagan, } Business Managers.
Homer H. Yendes, }

The New Education Ideal and Practical.

(Monthly \$1.00 a year.)

Edited by the Author of "Preston Papers."

Preston Papers, \$1.00.

Snap Shots with an Old Maid's Kodak, \$1.00.

Miss Preston's Leaven, 50 c. Paper 25 c.

Hobson's Choice (in press) 50 c. Paper 25 c.

37 West 10th St., New York, April 9, 189

To His Honor, the Mayor of the City Of New York:

Honored and Respected Sir: I write you as one who is entirely outside the benefits of the public schools--so far as place or patronage is conferred, but who is nevertheless interested in the topic of the ^{day} the abolition of the Trustee System, and the substitution therefor of Assistant Superintendents; and to protest against both as set forth in what is known as the Pavey Compromise bill in the State Legislature.

More than two years ago, I was greatly interested in reading in the Forum a series of articles, by a man who styled himself "Dr. J.M. Rice" and who proceeded with undoubted vigor but with questionable truth to state things which I as a teacher (not here, in Western New York) did not think could be true. I expected to see the New York teachers rise en masse to resent his open insults, and when they did not I thought that just possibly his statements were true, or that they had enough truth in them to justify their publication, although I could see that their influence would be to prejudice the people against their greatest safeguards--the public schools.

I did not know a single teacher here at that time, having but recently come to New York, and for merely business reasons in connection with my literary work. But I determined to know what sort of a backwoods community the metropolis must be to tolerate the work there depicted. So I asked for and received a permit of the Superintendent, whom I did not know--to visit the different school and class rooms, and see for myself if they were in the deplorable condition pictured in the highly sensational articles which I had been reading.

Imagine my great surprise when I found exactly the reverse of what I dreaded and more than half expected. I found, not only intelligent and well bred teachers who were doing their duty and doing it well, but happy and well trained children. I admire the work of the Public Schools of your city (it is not mine for "keeps") and I deplore the vicious influence which flowed from that prejudiced pen--that ignorant pen as it proved, for at the time he wrote the articles Dr. Rice had not, as he has since confessed, visited the schools, judging from his knowledge of "pedagogy" rather than from experience---for he had never taught---or from actual knowledge. He had been into one school, and condemned the whole system from what he learned(?) while in that one!

Now I have visited a large number of them, and I regret that the tide of public criticism, then started, should have gone unchecked until now the critics (few of whom have any more practical knowledge than Dr. Rice) have legislated through both houses a bill that is

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2

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37 West 10th St., New York,189

most dangerous---in that it takes away the "Court of Appeal" from the patrons and from the teachers, and gives the power now vested in many into the hands of a few, and they paid for their work, although it is now done con amore. Briefly, then, I protest against it, because:

1. There are enough officers now to take salaries, and these are needless.

2. The people object. They have a right to be heard and their wishes deferred to, in a measure of so vital importance as this.

3. The promoters of the scheme (yes, that is the word) are in the main honest, but thoroughly ignorant of what is needed or best.

4. When any change is made, it should always carry with it some attribute of improvement. This does not. It does the opposite.

5. It is easier to cry "Wolf" than to show that such an animal exists, although the alarm may be as great as in the presence of the animal.

Believing that you will take time to look into the merits of this case, and to see its demerits as well, I remain,

Very Truly,

Dictated.

R

"The Author of Preston Papers"

(Miss) Lucy A. Yendes.

New York, April 9th/₇₁

Hon. Mayor L. Strong—

Dear Sir,

I write
in regard to the abolition
of the Trustee System. I,
as well as all of my family
were educated in the
public schools of N. Y. and
consider them superior to
all others, having proved
this to be true, my nephew
having been sent to private
school, and not making
any progress, was sent
to public school, which

has given the satisfaction
we hoped for -

All the trustees, whom
I have come in contact
with, (and they have been
many) were all gentlemen
and as they interest them-
selves in School work,
voluntarily, giving their
time, without any re-
muneration, ^{and} why should
we, as taxpayers, be
burdened with extra ex-
pense, in order that
high salaried officials

should be placed in
the positions, now oc-
cupied, by the trustees?

I, and my husband,
and the rest of my
family, have always been
staunch republicans, and
regret the stand of the
party, on this question -
but knowing you to be
happily independent of any
party, trust that you
will stand firmly for
the right, against the
Compromise Bill - Mrs. G. H. Downing
100 Greenwich Ave, N. Y.

New York April 9th/86.

To The Hon W. L. Strong
Mayor &c.
New York City

Sir

Having been a resident
of New York City many
years and being fully
acquainted with the present
government of our School
System I enter by earnest
petition against the Penny
Compromise Bill and
respectfully request your
honour to withhold your
approval of it
Very Respy Yours

Thomas Weyman
30-W-128th St

THE SCHOOL BILL.

The Mayor Urged to Sign It.

The following letter has been sent to Mayor Strong by a number of the former members of the executive committee of the Citizens' Committee of Seventy, urging him to give his approval to the public-school reform bill now in his hands:

The undersigned, members of the executive committee of the Committee of Seventy (1894) respectfully urge that you accept on behalf of the city the bill for the reorganization and reform of the public-school system that has passed the Legislature and is now in your hands.

This bill has received the substantially unanimous support of the public press of this city without regard to party, and has been cordially endorsed and supported by representative citizens of all classes and of all shades of political faith. It has been recommended by Gov. Morton in a special message to the Legislature, and has passed both Senate and Assembly by overwhelming majorities. It contains all of the essential provisions that were to be found in the school reform bill introduced into the Legislature of 1895 with the consent and approval of the Committee of Seventy. Save in one point, it has had the practically unanimous approval of the present Board of Education. If this measure should become a law, we believe that for the first time in a generation the public schools of this city will be organized on a rational plan and in accordance with those rules of business administration that should prevail in all departments of the city government. The abolition of the antiquated and cumbrous ward trustee system is the chief merit of the bill, and it is this fact that has gained for it the cordial support that it has received. We earnestly ask that it be promptly accepted by you on behalf of the city of New York.

Respectfully,

Charles Stewart Smith,
J. Kennedy Tod,
W. L. Rives,
William B. Hornblower,
John Crosby Brown,
William Travers Jerome,

Joseph Larocque,
John A. Stewart,
James Speyer,
W. Harris Roome,
Frederick Taylor.

Edward F. Steers, Pres.
Isaac H. Kopper, V. Pres.

F. B. French, Cashier.
Dayton, Murphy & Swift, Counsel.

The Twelfth Ward Bank

COR. 125TH ST. & LEXINGTON AVE.

New York, Apr 9th 1896

Y Con. Wm L. Strong
Mayor City of New York

Dear Sir:

My attention
has been called to an article
in the Evening Post of this date,
signed by several prominent
citizens, a copy of which is
herely enclosed. If you will
call upon the signers to
appear before you and state
what information they know,
in regard to the Public School
system of this city I think
you will be greatly edified
& enlightened. Yours truly
A Masius

LAW OFFICES OF
COWEN, WING, PUTNAM & BURLINGHAM
45 William Street

ESEK COWEN
HENRY T. WING
HARRINGTON PUTNAM
CHARLES C. BURLINGHAM
EVERETT MASTEN
JAMES FORRESTER

NEW YORK, April 9, 1896.

Honorable William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Dear Sir:

As a School Trustee I am interested in anything which concerns the welfare of the public schools; and I therefore respectfully urge your Honor to approve the School Bill now before you. The bill contains many good features, but the most important is the centralization of power and responsibility by the abolition of the trustees. This I am heartily in favor of. The personal character of the trustees is not the question at issue; it is simply a question of administration.

As regards repairs and supplies, the care of school-houses, etc., all seem to be agreed that these are not matters for local authorities like the trustees to control.

The only opposition to the bill concerns the appointment of teachers. The objections of principals and teachers to the abolition of the trustees are due to a conservative fear of any change, the dislike of expert criticism, and the fear of transfer.

The Ward Trustee system has resulted in creating barriers almost insurmountable between the different sections of the city. We know nothing, and can know nothing, of other wards. The down-town schools are entitled to as good teachers as the city can fur-

LAW OFFICES OF
COWEN, WING, PUTNAM & BURLINGHAM
45 William Street

ESEK COWEN
HENRY T. WING
HARRINGTON PUTNAM
CHARLES C. BURLINGHAM
EVERETT MASTEN
JAMES FORRESTER

NEW YORK,

nish, but who can blame teachers for seeking their own advantage by securing an appointment in a growing ward where the population is increasing, new schools are being established, and advancement is rapid? Under the present system, if a young woman, graduated from the Normal School, has the good fortune to obtain a position in a growing ward like the 12th, she will be advanced rapidly; while one who has the misfortune to obtain a position in a ward like ours (the 21st) may remain for years without substantial increase in salary. Thus the advancement of a teacher is not due to merit but to chance. If the appointments of teachers are made by some central authority, the best and most successful teachers will be put in the right place as the reward of merit. The power of transfer is essential to the welfare of the schools, and it will be a distinct gain to the teachers themselves.

The present division of power and responsibility makes proper superintendence of teachers impossible. At present the assistant superintendents visit and criticise teachers, but their criticisms lead to nothing for the reason that they have no power to enforce their suggestions. On the other hand, the trustees who have the power have not the knowledge requisite for proper superintendence.

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45 William Street

ESEK COWEN
HENRY T. WING
HARRINGTON PUTNAM
CHARLES C. BURLINGHAM
EVERETT MASTEN
JAMES FORRESTER

NEW YORK,

The present bill preserves the rights of teachers; their tenure of office is in no way disturbed by it; they will be the gainers by the bill; poor teachers can be weeded out; good teachers will receive the reward of merit.

Yours respectfully,

Charles C. Burlingham

Payson Merrill

PATTERSON & GREENOUGH.

ALBERT M. PATTERSON. WILLIAM GREENOUGH.

WATERLOO WOOLEN MAN'G CO.

*P.O. Box 293,
44 North Street.*

New York, April 9th, 1896

To His Honor, The Mayor,

William L. Strong,

City Hall, New York City.

Dear Colonel:

Allow me to express my hope that you will approve the so-called Compromise School Bill, now in your hands. Mrs. Greenough and myself have given considerable attention to the question of public education for some years, and feel convinced that this Bill in its main features will mark a very decided step in advance of all previous school bills regulating the system of public education in New York City. I think there is no question whatever, that it meets the approval of ninety-five per cent of the educated and unbiassed persons in New York, and that its opposition comes only from those who are unfamiliar with the real need of public instruction.

Regretting that my occupations prevent me from making

82

April 24th

an appeal to you in person on this subject, and feeling sure that

your time is fully engrossed by public matters, I am,

William L. Strong

Very truly yours,

City Hall, New York City
Dear Colonel

Allow me to express my hope that you will approve

the so-called Compromise School Bill, now in your hands. Mrs.

87
Greenough and myself have given considerable attention to the

question of public education for some years, and feel convinced

that this Bill in its main features will mark a very decided step

in advance of all previous school bills regulating the system of

public education in New York City. I think there is no question

whatsoever, that it meets the approval of ninety-five per cent of

the educated and unbiased persons in New York, and that its op-

position comes only from those who are unfamiliar with the real

need of public instruction.

UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT SOCIETY,
26 DELANCEY STREET.

JAMES B. REYNOLDS, HEAD WORKER.

JAMES SPEYER, TREASURER.

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HENRY D. SEDGWICK, JR.

LESTER W. CLARK, SECRETARY.

NEW YORK April 9, 1896. 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

City Hall,

New York City.

My dear Mr. Strong:-

I write to express the hope that the hearing on the school bill will take place at the earliest date possible and will receive your sanction. I have inferred from the conversation which I had with you three weeks ago, and the ideas which you expressed then, that the compromise bill has been largely of your own suggestion, and I feel therefore, that I only need to say that as a school officer, it meets with my most cordial endorsement and approval, as I hope it will receive your own. To my own mind it is unquestionably a decided step in advance, and simplifies the school system to a very great degree.

Regarding the large petition against the bill which may be presented I wish to state, that after questioning the teachers about it it is very clear to my mind that not one in ten has the least idea of the actual provisions of the bill. They have been told that if the bill passes, they will be out of their places in side of twenty-four hours; that they will be constantly re-examined for fitness, that the term of their office will be absolutely uncertain, statements which you know have not the slightest ground of truth. I am quite confident that

Hon. W. L. S. #2.

within two years time evry one will settle down with satisfaction to the improved system and will recognize that a decided step in advance dates from the present time.

Very sincerely yours,

James B. Reynolds.

Spencer Trask & Co.,
Bankers,
Nos. 27 & 29 Pine Street,
New York.

New York, April 9th, 1896.

Hon. W. L. Strong,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers College, and on their behalf, I beg to urge upon you the importance of the so-called Compromise School Bill, recently passed by the Legislature and now before you for action. It seems hardly necessary to reiterate the arguments that have been advanced in its favor, all of which have doubtless been presented and urged upon you.

The keynote of the Teachers College has been Reform in all matters of public education. In common with those who have closely investigated the subject, we are convinced that in matters of public education New York is very much behind most all other cities in this country. The importance and necessity of the changes contemplated by this bill must be evident to every citizen of intelligence. We trust that it may meet with your approval.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Spencer Trask". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

THE NEW EDUCATION PUBLISHING COMPANY,

John Wesley Hagan, } Business Managers.
Homer H. Yendes, }

The New Education Ideal and Practical.
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Hobson's Choice (in press) 50 c. Paper 25 c.

37 West 10th St., New York, April, 9, 1896

Wm. Strong Esq.,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:- As a business man and one who is interested in the welfare of our metropolis I wish to add my word of protest to the many which I am sure must have reached you ere this. There are few if any bills which have passed the state legislature which affect the interests of the tax payer as the one commonly known as the Pavey School Bill, which is the one to which I refer.

That being the case we have and claim the right to be heard on this question. As above intimated I am not in the schools and have no further interest than any citizen should have. Therefore,

I am free and untrammelled to protest against it for the following reasons:

1. Until there is enough room to accommodate the thousands of children who are practically shut out, I protest against any additional salaried officers.

2. A bill which strikes at the root of the system should have the support of those who have practical knowledge of it, as this one has not.

3. The trustees who in most instances are long residents of their respective wards are in a position to know of the needs of the schools to a far greater extent than any outsider possibly can.

4. A bill which affects the schools should be framed and supported by those who understand the system. This one is not.

Believing that you will give this your careful consideration I remain,

Very Cordially,

John Wesley Hagan

New York, April 9, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

My dear Mr. Mayor:-

I have been asked, as a member of the Citizens' Committee on Public School Reform, to see or write to you, asking for your approval of the Compromise Bill which was passed by the Assembly on Tuesday, and had intended to give myself the pleasure of calling on you for this purpose early in the week, but was prevented from doing so by the stormy weather. I judge from what I see in the papers, that you must by this time be pretty well tired of receiving deputations and granting hearings, and it now seems to me hardly worth while for me to trespass on your time and attention further than to put myself on record, as one whom you honored a year ago with the offer of a School Commissionership. The case appears to me to be so clear that I cannot think that you need any urging from any quarter to insure your favorable action. The united Tammany opposition seems to be a strong enough argument in favor of the bill to outweigh anything that can be legitimately said against it, and on the other side, you have the practically unanimous commendation of all whose opinion on these questions are entitled to weight, and the general belief of the friends of your administration that the final adoption of this measure would be one of the greatest achievements of reform during your incumbency; all of which is respectfully submitted by

Yours sincerely,

Bowling Green

108 East 129th St.

April 10, 1896.

To the Hon. Wm. L. Strong
Mayor of the City of N. Y.
Dear Sir,

I write to enter my protest
as a parent against the
passage of the Compromise
School Bill. I have been a
pupil and teacher in the
public schools and al-
though not now engaged
in teaching still take a
deep interest in their wel-
fare. Having taught in
four wards in the city
I can state that merit
gained every position I
filled and recommenda-

tions from former principals always brought the highest position I applied for. The trustees are gentlemen, omitting Mr. Reynolds, and devote every spare minute and even sleeping time to the care of the schools.

The present attempt to abolish the trustees is all wrong and has not been brought about by those who know our Public Schools.

It will be a serious detriment to abolish the trustees as it will thrust snow work on the lower board than that Board can possibly

attend to, and urgent cases may lie unattended to, for weeks.

Politics will enter strongly into the actions of the Board, when twenty-one or even forty-one men have 3500 places to fill annually. Won't the positions be open to those who bid the highest?

There are now many checks on the trustees' appointments, as there should be; a trustee only has the power of putting in a friend when that friend has satisfied all the requirements of the Board of Education, which even fixes the salaries of the appointees. A trustee

can not excuse his nearest
relative for any absence ^{with salary} as
he has nothing to do with
payrolls but sign them.

Where politics enter
into the system to-day is
ridic. A trustee may ap-
point a teacher but if
the superintendent disap-
prove of that teacher, seri-
ously, and if she be
proved unqualified she
may lose her position.
Where is the favoritism?

When the New
Board gets into operation
won't the superintendents
approve of the teachers their
special commissioners
appoint, when these super-
intendents owe their liv-

2

ings to the said commis-
sioners. Is there human
strength able to resist
such temptation? Why
place it in their way?

Further the bill is am-
biguous and were it per-
med by any of those despic-
able creatures (Mr. Ford's
teachers) it would, at least,
have been intelligible.

It is an outrage
for people who openly
confess they never entered
a New York Public School
to have power to interfere
with the working of in-
stitutions of such importance
to the community.

Finally, what

education will children
get (and this is the part
that touches me) when
teachers & principals are
transferred from one
place to another?

It will do incal-
culable harm to the
system and I earnestly
beg you not to sign it.

Yours respectfully,
E. Slight

115 E 129th St.

Ltr

Hon. William L. Strong

Teachers College

MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS, NEW YORK

120TH STREET, WEST

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	MR. NEWBOLD MORRIS

WALTER L. HERVEY, PH. D., PRESIDENT

April 10, 1896.

To His Honor, the Mayor,

William L. Strong,

City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:

Will you permit me, on behalf of my colleagues, to express the satisfaction that is felt throughout the Teachers College that the Compromise School Bill has found its way into your hands. It is a matter upon which the people of New York should congratulate themselves that the present Mayor of the City is one in whose hands such a measure is sure of receiving wise treatment.

I am,

Respectfully,

Walter L. Hervey.

President.

J. W. Gilbert,
President.

C. M. Perry,
Secretary and Comptroller.

REMOVED TO NO. 257 BROADWAY.
Office of The Green-Wood Cemetery,

No. 257 Broadway,

New York, 10 April 1896

Hon. Wm. J. Strong, Mayor
Dear Sir

As a citizen, interested
in the advancement of the Public Schools,
I beg to enter a plea in behalf of the
School bill now before you.

The system of Ward Trustees has been
long tried and found wanting.

Its abolishment is not an Experiment,
as other cities can testify.

The opposition to this bill comes from
those within the system or connected
with it. Whatever strength it has acquired
has been secured through most remarkable
misrepresentation.

I trust you will gratify a long-suffering
public, and do yourself an honor by
accepting this bill in behalf of the city.

With great respect

Charles M. Perry

20, East Thirtieth Street,

New York, Apl. 10th, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong, Mayor.

My dear Sir:-

I beg most respectfully, but urgently, to call to your attention the so-called Reform School bill, which has passed the Assembly and Senate, with the request that you approve of it, because, should it become a law, it would, in my opinion, do a great deal to take away the influence of Tammany Hall, which has been so detrimental to the public schools of this City.

Yours very truly,

J. J. Brown

OFFICE OF
THOMAS F. MULLEN,
DECORATOR
AND
GENERAL CONTRACTOR,
For Repairs on Buildings,
589 THIRD AVENUE,
Near 39th Street,

New York, APRIL 10. 1896

HON. WM. L. STRONG,

Dear Sir:

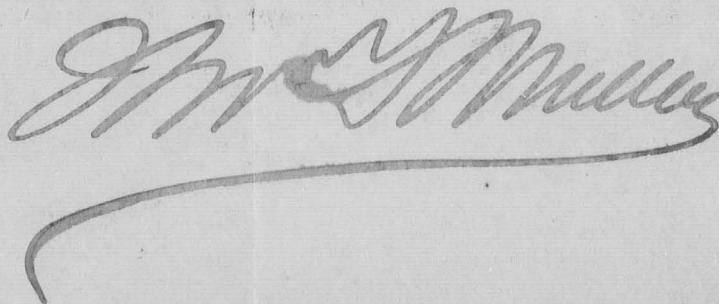
As a tax payer, resident, & citizen of New York City, & also, one who has received his limited education in our public schools, I solemnly enter my protest against your recognition of the Pavey School Bill, which has been before our Legislature, & which awaits your Honor's attention.

While I am a Republican, dyed in the wool, & fully in accord with your administration, I can see no reason, why the bill should become a law, even though offered at the hands of a Republican.

I voice the sentiment of many of my neighbors, all of which agree with me, in my opposition to the bill.

Trusting your Honor will allow the measure, no consideration in your exalted mind, I am

Very respectfully yours

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. F. Mullen', with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

PETER J. HALPIN & BRO.'S

.. .. COOPERAGE,

NOS. 369 SOUTH AND 332 FRONT STREETS,

TELEPHONE, SPRING
760.

New York,

April 11, 1896

Hon. Mayor Strong,
Dear Sir:

As a tax payer
& business man, I respectfully request
that you do not sign the School
Bill, now before you.

And, in addition, & the enormous
increase of expenditure which is
called for by Kild, which is one
of my objections - my other is
that I am thoroughly satisfied
with Public Schools, as they now
exist.

Yrs respectfully
Peter J. Halpin

MR. SAM'L HATCH,
No. 41. W 54th ST.,
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

April 11th 1896.

Hon Wm L. Strong, Mayor

My dear Sir.

I understood
that the "Pavey bill" is
before you for your
signature, I herewith
Implore, & plead with
you, in the name of
Our fair Institutions
of Learning, not to
place your signature
nor even give your
Sanction to the said

"Purveybill." not knowing^{2.}
whether you are a Family
man or not. whether
or not my pleading
is for the Children of
this "Dear Metropolis."
of the present & future.

Our School System
is & always has been,
Equal if not Superior
to any City, on this Continent.
& there is no earthly Reason
why it should be changed,
or in any way Interfered
with.

3.

As your Administration
of the office of Mayor of
the City of New York is
to be on Strictly Business
lines, I again plead
with you, on such
a Basis, to very
positively refrain
from Countenancing
the aforesaid bill.

Yours very truly.

Sam. Hatch
M

365 N. 28th St.

New York City
April 11 - 1896.

Hon. Wm. Strong

Dear Mayor

As a citizen and
as a member of the "Public
Education Society", allow me to
protest against any proposed
bill abolishing the office of
Inspector of the common schools
of this city. At a recent mass
meeting of our association, held

at United Charters building, a majority vote was cast by persons,
mainly I hear, private school teachers who afterwards acknowledged
that they had not even read the new school bill, and knew
nothing of the trustee system, a system, which to my personal
knowledge has conserved the interests of the common schools, and
has jealously watched their progress, and under the administration
of which, some of our most notable business and professional men
have been educated to their present worthy positions. Among the
latter I call to mind the deacon of my own church, who was
first a pupil, then a graduate, later a teacher in one of them,
and presides over a well known up town church. This is but
one of many instances that I could cite of honorable products
of a so called "bad system" administered by so called "bad trustees".
In closing, with such notable examples in mind, permit me to
ask that you will now encourage by your signature a change involving
such a dangerous centralization of power as the Compromise bill would
give, a power which would overthrow what is dear to us
Americans; a government "of the people, for the people, by the

people. Again trusting you to
ensure our childrens interests
as young Americans, and
scholars, in our unequalled
common schools. I remain,

very respectfully yours
S. Elizabeth Odley

8.8

DR. FERD. C. VALENTINE

9 A. M. TO 12 M.
AND BY APPOINTMENT.

242 WEST 43D STREET,

NEW YORK, April 11th, 1896.

To the Hon.

The Mayor.

Sir:

The kind attention with which you favored me when addressing you on behalf of the West Side German Dispensary, encourages me to bespeak your influence in opposition to the proposed abolition of the School Trustees.

My knowledge of the character of one Trustee, N.A. Prentiss, Esq. who has been the legal adviser of my family for nearly twenty years, prompts me to write you on this question. I must add that Mr. Prentiss has never mentioned this matter to me.

I am, Mr. Mayor

Most respectfully yours

Ferd. Valentine.

203 West 78th St.

Apr. 11th '96

Hon. Wm L. Strong.

Dear Sir:

It does seem to me
(a graduate of G. S. #35 class
of '78) that the conduct of
the present administration of
our schools requires no such
radical change as suggested
by the "Pavy Bill" just passed
by our representatives in
the State. The sound
business sense which has
made you our representa-

ative merchant, will no doubt determine
for you, the error of this useless piece
of legislation.

Hoping for a continuance of a pleasant administration I remain

Yours Respectfully
D. Asher

M JESSE HENRY
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

~~25 CHAMBERS STREET~~

ROOM 30.

NEW YORK April 11th. 1896.

vs. }

88

Hon. William L. Strong,

My Dear Sir;

As a resident and citizen of New York City,
I lend my voice with that of others; I solemnly enter my protest
against your recognition of the Pavey School Bill, which has been
before our Legislature, and which awaits your Honor's attention.
While I am a staunch republican, and have always been so, and shall
remain the same, I am compelled through common sense, to oppose the
Pavey Bill now pending.

In my neighborhood I can not find any one of my neighbors
that is in favor of the Bill. Hoping your Honor will allow the
measure no consideration in your exalted mind, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

Harry Larey Luker

242 East 39th. St. N.Y. City.

Faulkner, Page & Co.,

*Commission Merchants,
66 to 72 Leonard St.*

P. O. Box 843.

Dictated by

E.D.P.

New York April 11", 1896.

Subject

"School Bill".

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

My dear Sir:-

As you may readily imagine, my object in writing you on this subject is not to attempt to exert any of that influence which, if rumor be credited, is being brought to bear upon you in favor of or against the bill abolishing the School Trustee System which is shortly to be brought before you for consideration. I am only hoping that possibly I may assist in clearing up one or two matters which stand in the way of a common-sense decision.

A great deal of opposition to this bill has been developed amongst the teachers in the schools, and after talking the matter over with several of them, I am convinced it is not so entirely unreasonable as it has been made to appear. I think it can be partly explained by the fact that this is a very large city, and the actual operation of the Trustee System in some parts of it is extremely good. Especially is this true of the uptown wards, and in parts of the city where the people who use the schools are the most intelligent and have been the most alive to their own interests in the matter. In such districts a fairly representative Board of Trustees may perform its work with such good general results that they overshadow the palpable evils of political influence in the educational and business interests confided to their care. The

Faulkner, Page & Co.

*Commission Merchants
66 to 72 Leonard St.*

P. O. Box 843.

Dictated by

E.D.P.

New York April 11th, 1896.

Subject

"School Bill".

Hon. Wm. L. Strong. #2.

teachers naturally see nothing to grumble at in the operation of the system as they see it, and in such cases conscientiously oppose a change.

But in other wards the case is very different. The people whose children use the schools are incapable of judging of their efficiency or of their business management. The daily life of the East side population is largely based upon the experience that a great many desirable things come through political influence, that this is the natural way of the world and that it is useless to kick against it. Therefore, "Politics" is rampant in the appointment of Trustees, and it controls the management of the Schools, both on the educational and business side. Many of the teachers have been chosen through such influences, and of course those who have obtained positions in this way are loathe to see any change that is likely to deprive them of their jobs.

I think that even in the better regulated School Districts, some intelligent teachers oppose a change because they believe it means the loss of position for elderly persons of their class for whom they have a natural sympathy, but who have lost touch with modern methods of instruction, and would be thrown out by any management where business and not sentiment was to control.

Of course as a business man I do not need to suggest to you the very great advantages to be derived in any business from paid experts management. Why should the schools be governed by a committee of people

Faulkner, Page & Co.
Commission Merchants
66 to 72 Leonard St.
P. O. Box 843.

Dictated by E.D.P.

New York April 11", 1896.

Subject "School Bill".

Hon. Wm. L. Strong. #3.

with so little educational knowledge as school trustees generally possess? How long would a manufacturing interest thrive if its management were confided to a committee of the inhabitants of the Mill village, chosen because of their active identification with the selection and election of candidates for public office? If the education of the growing generation in this City is to be conducted so as to produce the best results in civilization, it seems to me that a paid expert organization is the only way to do it, just as we find it in all other branches of human effort. And in the elimination of personal and political considerations from this business, lies in my judgment, one of the most needed object lessons in that reform of municipal government in this City, which your administration was chosen to represent. It is for these reasons that I trust you will be able to approve of the bill now before you, which, while it does not create an ideal situation, yet goes far, in my judgment, to remedy one of the most obvious abuses of the present system.

Very sincerely yours,

Edward D. Page

The School Bill

April 12th 1896

Hon^{ble} Wm L. Strong
Mayor,

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find two articles relating to the School Bill on which you propose to give a hearing on Wednesday. Not being well enough yet to be present, permit me to send you a written protest against the measure.

The proposition to confer almost unlimited power on the 24 members of the Board of Education is as monstrous as it is absurd.

That Board has ample power now, and the expenditure of millions of dollars: to give it supreme control over 4000 Teachers, and the appointment of as many as Superintendent and clerks as it pleases, and fix their salaries would be centralization of unchecked

power unknown hitherto, uncalled for, and utterly indefensible.

9 of 3800 teachers, out of the 4000, asked for the change it would be wrong to give such powers to a few men, not elected by the people or if elected. The Teachers oppose it

A Board that meets twice a month for 2 or 3 hours, is utterly incapable of transacting the immense work and details of the Public Schools of New York. It is useful as it now is, like the main spring of a clock, to regulate the other branches of the system; each is necessary to the harmonious action of the whole.

The Trustee system is absolutely necessary by its check on Centralization. If it has defects they can be remedied without such a radical and revolutionary attempt to destroy it, as that proposed by the so-called Amey Page Bill.

It has scarcely one redeeming feature about it, and it is ardently hoped that you will put a very heavy Veto upon it.

I am, Yours very Respectfully,
23 Murray Street, Theodore Bowne

Mr. Edw. Lauterbach lobbied openly in the
Assembly Chamber for the School Bill!

Personal.

April 13th 1896

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Dear Sir,

In the enclosed article
containing the report from Albany on the
School Bill, you will notice several items of
interest. All efforts to amend or modify by
giving to citizens & teachers a chance to express
their opinions by a vote was stamped down by
the Platt Leeseow Lauterbach majority.

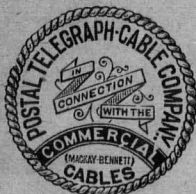
This is significant as to the animus of the
Bill, its real intention, and its backers.

To show clearly who are behind it, and
whipped the majority into voting it, an item ap-
pears, which I have marked, showing that Mrs.
Edw. Lauterbach was in the Assembly Chamber
actively engaged in lobbying in favor of the School
Bill. By this act I think Platt and Lauterbach
have shown their deep interest in the scheme
(there's millions in it) by employing Mrs. Lauterbach
to openly promote it. But if anything were
needed to kill such a vicious Bill,

except its own repulsive features this
act should do it. Platt, Leaw, and
Lauterbach are in politics not for patriotism
or philanthropy, and will bear watching.

If the duties of Trustees are properly
defined and they are elected, like other
City officials, in the "off year" there need
be little partisan politics in their make up,
so that plea amounts to very little. But if
Tammany Mayor be in office, and this Bill
be a law, he could appoint all Tammany
Commissioners (there were 22 Democratic
Commissioners when you became Mayor) and the
vast powers and funds at their disposal by this
would make New York, New York again, and
irremediably under Hibernian Rule.

The Priests you will notice denounce our
Public Schools as "Nurseries of Crime" and ex-
-communicate Parents and Children who Patronize them,
but they push as many as possible of their devotees
into the Schools as Teachers, and as Trustees and
Commissioners. Do not this rank Hypocrisy?
Not a Roman Catholic according to their own
professions should have anything to do with the
Schools or their management. Yet they have
at least 3 times as many paid positions as do Jews
and Protestants, according to the number of
Papish children who attend contrary to Papal
Commands - And if this arbitrary Bill become a
law the proportion of Papish Teachers would
increase under a Tammany Board. Your veto
can prevent this, Yours Respectfully, Theo. Bourne



Form 4. - For Type Writer Use.

NIGHT TELEGRAM

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages subject to the conditions printed on the back of this Blank.

ALBERT B. CHANDLER,
President and General Manager.

JOHN B. STEVENS,
Secretary.

Received at MAIN OFFICE, 253 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.
(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

85P 0 ly 22 Paid N M 952P

Atlanticcity N 12 Apl 96

Mayor Strong

City Hall

Newyork

As a resident of Newyorkcity and a member of the public education society , I most earnestly protest against the Pavey Compromise bill .

A L Whyte

CONDITIONS.

ALL NIGHT MESSAGES TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS.

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company will receive messages, to be sent during the night, for delivery not earlier than the morning of the next ensuing business day, at reduced rates, but in no case for less than twenty-five cents tolls for a single message.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one half the regular rate is charged in addition. It is agreed between the sender of the message written on the face hereof and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery of any REPEATED message beyond ten times the sum received for sending the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

Correctness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of the Company can be INSURED by contract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon at the following rates, in addition to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, and two per cent. for any greater distance.

No responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery at a greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

This Company will not be liable for damages in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within thirty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission. In any event, this Company is not to be held liable for any loss, or damage, or for delay, or detention, or errors caused by storms or action of the elements, or other acts of God, or by civil or military authority, or by insurrections, riots, rebellions, or dangers incident to time of war, or by the unlawful acts of individuals.

This is an UNREPEATED Night Message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison.

No employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

Hon Mayor Strong.

Dear Sir,

I am
a property owner & resident
of the 7th Ward.

As such, I desire
to express my disapproval
of the School Bill, now
before you & trust you
will veto it.

Yours respt
William Walsh

358 Front St. N.Y. City -
April 12, 1896

April 12th 1896

Hon W. L. Strong.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Cross desires me to
say that she has carefully considered
the bill to regulate the Public
Schools, known as the Compromise
School bill, in regard to which
you are called upon to take
action in your official capacity,
and being convinced that the bill

if it becomes law, will bring
about a better state of things
in the schools, she hopes that
it will meet with your
favorable consideration.

Yours truly
R. J. Croft.

L. MULRY,
Dealer in BALE HAY, STRAW,
and all kinds of FEED,
10 CHRISTOPHER ST., N. Y.

April 12/96

Hon. Mayor Strong
City

Dear Sir:

As a
tax payer and a business
man of long standing, I
would respectfully ask
you to veto the School Bill.

We have no desire what-
ever to be burdened with
this additional Expense.

Respectfully Yours
Lawrence Mulry
38 Bedford St. (M)
City

Mr. Mayor -

The School
Bill is not desired
by the people of New York
I own a house - like
the Trustees. I do not
want my taxes raised
and I humbly ask that
you veto the Bill
I remain

with Courtesy and Respect
Your humble servant
John W. Mahon

306 East Broadway,
New York City
April 12, 1896