

ALBANY, March 23, 1904.

My dear Dr. Draper,

My letter of Monday you have probably received by this time and you may have been surprised ~~at~~ my suggesting re-

~~not suggesting~~ candidates for the positions ^{some of} in the ^{new} Department of Education. Upon reflection, I think I was ~~too~~ ^{wise} ~~far~~ ⁱⁿ ~~expressing~~ my thoughts upon a plan of organization, ~~and that I might more wisely have waited until I was asked for my advice or criticism.~~ ^{My only} ~~regret~~ ^{regret} is a desire to tell you fully and frankly ^{my thoughts} ~~you know I think that I would not pro-~~

^{attempt to} ~~advise~~ ^{direct} you in such matters. ^{But} Since I wrote you as I did I have a few words more to say. I shall, however, always esteem it a great pleasure to counsel with you and to serve you in every way possible.

It is still rumored about the capitol that Governor Odell is to prevent Mr. Skinner from occupying a position under you in the department of Education. I had supposed that that matter was settled when the bill for unification became a law. Everyone assumed that both he and Mr. Parsons would be retained and the public journals announced that as a foregone conclusion. I supposed there would ^{not} be no doubt of his appointment

on Mr. Parsons's either side that will explain the
reason for my naming them in my letter last
Monday. I knew that the governor had told
Mr. Skinner ^{last December} that he could not be Supt. of
Public Instruction ^{again} because the Roman Catholics
were opposed to his election - bitterly and de-
terminedly. ^{opposed} Mr. Skinner did not believe the
governor could prevent his being elected
and I am positive that he could have been
elected if he had conducted his campaign
wisely, and if the bill unifying the departments
had not become a law. Mr. S. is very pop-
ular with the members of the legislature. Ninety
five percent of them favor his appointment
to a position with you and most of the best
people in the state ^{will} endorse such action. There
will be great surprise if he is not appointed.
Mr. Parsons's friends (and I am one of them as I
know you are) will also be pained if he is
not appointed, ^{yet} it would seem as if both
because it would not be a good record for the Republican Party to have it said
that Mr. Skinner was denied a position because of Catholic opposition, and Mr. Parsons's name
must fall together. I don't know that Mr.

Parsons cares for an appointment, but I
think he would be glad to accept it. He
became very unpopular with the members
of the legislature toward the last of the
contest, but he is a fine gentleman, a
^{valuable assistant} capable secretary and a very able
man in many ways. I shall be sorry

ALBANY.

if he is cast adrift, for I am told he has only his salary to rely upon.

Strangely enough the face of these two men would disappoint and displease the great bulk of the people of the State, for every one was arrayed on one side or the other ^{of the educational contest} of the other. Mr.

Skinner's enemies were Mr. Parsons's friends ^{and vice versa} and the friends of both include ^{many} of the thoughtful people of the State, ~~but~~ Mr. Skinner's friends would not disapprove of Mr. Parsons's appointment if both ~~were~~ appointed, but Mr. Parsons's friends would bitterly condemn Mr. Skinner's appointment. Mr. So's enemies are Mr. Bardeen, a few regents and the Roman Catholics and they are determined to ruin him, simply because ~~he~~ ^{he} did his duty as he understood it. ^{He was very reluctant to decide against them and possibly not altogether wise in the appointment he made, but he thought to do his duty.} I can understand why the Catholics (from their point of view) opposed his election as Supt. of Public Instruction. In that capacity he would have the opportunity to make decisions that might affect ^{some of} their church schools, ~~where~~ ^{as} they are being ^{supported} ~~paid~~ for ^{by} of the public school funds, but he has no judicial duties to perform hereafter nor

can he interfere with or harm them more than
can any other citizen. For that reason it seems
to me he is being maliciously persecuted. The
governor may have been politically wise
~~to promise~~ ^{in promising} that Mr. D. should not be Supt.
of Public Instruction, but it is quite another
matter to say that he cannot fill any office
in the department of education. That is ~~undoubtedly~~ ^{undoubtedly}
and the people of the State will think so. Mr.
Barden has announced that Mr. Schall has no
position in the new department; ~~still~~ ^{still} Mr. S's
friends ~~will not grow about Mr. Parsons's~~
~~appointment - unless it be a few members of~~
the legislature. ^{that} If the Governor ^{has} made a
pledge to prominent Roman Catholics that Mr.
Skinner should not have the ~~right to pass~~ ^{opportunity to pronounce}
official disapproval of their misdeeds, he can
say he has kept his word, ^{and so he has} but I am very
sure it will be called ^{savage} ~~malicious~~ ^{persecution}
if ~~he~~ ^{the Governor} uses his influence to prevent ~~him~~ ^{Mr. Skinner} from
holding any position in the department in
which his services can be of most value
and ~~where~~ ^{in which} his heart is.

I would gladly call upon the Governor to
prevent Mr. Skinner's case, but he would not
receive me. He would keep me waiting
in the public reception room for hours
and then go to his meals leaving me ^{looking} ~~looking~~ ^{for nothing}

ALBANY.

my heels and wearing out the carpet
 by my impatient tramping. He would
 give me no audience, I am sure, and not
 a very respectful consideration of my
 plea or my argument. ^{if by persistence I might see him} I could rehearse
 to him the fact that the bill that passed
 was prepared by Mr. Skinner, that it
 was urged upon the legislature by ^{Mr. Skinner} ~~him~~,
^{that the speaking in favor of the bill was secured by Mr. Skinner} and that he could have prevented its
 passage in both the Senate and As-
 sembly if he had chosen to ^{do so} ~~fit~~ it.
 that the legislature would never have
 passed it, if it had not been supposed that
 he would have a position. The Governor prob-
 ably knows all these things, but he feels bound
 by his promise, I fancy. Perhaps he dislikes
 Mr. Skinner personally, ^{and opposes his appointment for that reason} but his pledge will
^{have been} kept, the ^{Commonwealth} State will have secured a good
 servant, and the people of the State will be
 glad if Mr. Skinner is appointed. ^{For Mr. Parson's appointment will also please all parties I am sure} ~~For Mr. Parson's I speak also.~~

All of this has been written to you because I can not get the ear of Governor Odell, and

because he would pay little heed to me under the
circumstances. I know that you are Mr. Skinner's
friend and I desire you to know a few of the facts.
I ~~have~~ ^{know} ~~assumed~~ that you are free to choose your
own assistants, but if the Governor offers opposition
as it is reported he has or will, I wish you to have
the knowledge that I have given regarding the grounds
for his opposition. All power to harm the Catholics
has been taken away from, and it is not in
good taste for the Governor to persecute him and
drive him to ruin or to poverty.

It is reported that the Governor said Mr. S. would
be taken care of in some other position, but men
who have lived long in this world know full
well that such promises are often broken. It
was said in a New York paper that it was understood
that neither Mr. Skinner nor Mr. Parsons would be
in the new department, that they renounced all
claim to positions, that is not correct. Both
men declared that they would not be candidates
for the Commissionership of Education - Mr.
Skinner at the beginning of the contest Mr.
Parsons ^{at} near the very end, but neither of them
ever thought of saying that they would not
accept a position under you.

But I have written too long a letter. My object
^{in writing and have} was twofold: to give you a reason for my writing
as I did about Mr. Skinner and Mr. Parsons on Monday,
and to give a candid defence of Mr. Skinner. Of course,
I shall be sorry for both men if they are not

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ALBANY.

appointed, but I think I suggested ~~that~~ in my
former letter the wisest course to pursue in
reorganizing the educational forces. I have
endeavored to free myself from personal
bias and to suggest the most ^{satisfactory} ~~acceptable~~
plan for carrying on the great work. I
am still of the opinion that with Mr. Skinner
in charge of Elementary Education, Mr. Parsons
directing Secondary education and a
new man for your deputy, not in charge
of a department at all, you would have
the maximum of efficiency and the
minimum of friction.

Very Dear