

Butler's Mistake.

Hope, N. D., April 28, 1897.

Editor Pioneer:

On Saturday last, Superintendent W. H. Butler was in Hope, working in opposition to Prof. Moody's being re-employed as principal of the Hope school. By this action, he not only lost actual friends, but lowered himself in the estimation of almost everyone. A petition was signed by 130 residents and patrons, asking that Prof. Moody be employed for the ensuing year. It was not intended that the petition would influence the board, who are expected to use their own judgement, but as a means of expressing public sentiment. It is only fair to say that some of those who signed the petition were not particularly favorable to Mr. Moody, but all were glad of the opportunity to express their disapproval of Mr. Butler's attempt to play the role of dictator in a matter which they considered to be none of his business.

A few hundred years ago, the belief of the divine right of kings, and other potentates, to do as they saw fit, was a very common one. But it is doubtful, if even at that remote period, the same belief was prevalent as to county superintendents. Granted that such was the case, the idea that anyone shall dictate where he is not vitally interested, has never been a popular one on this side of the Atlantic. In fact it is the grand feature of our national character that every political division, from the township to the state, shall be wholly sovereign in regard to affairs affecting only its own interests. Such powers are either expressly granted or implied in both the national and state constitutions; and any attempt made by anyone, without authority to interfere with affairs of any political body, or any private individual, is an infringement of the sovereign right of that BODY OR INDIVIDUAL. And it is the general sentiment of the American people that every political division, corporation and individual, will serve the best interests of society by attending strictly to their own business. The people of Hope, as a corporate body, are aware that certain powers are guaranteed to them by the state constitution, and among these powers, strangely enough, is the one by virtue of which they exercise control over their public schools, including the employing of teachers. They recognize fully the greatness of the office of county superintendent, and they acknowledge the eminent fitness and ability of the present incumbent to fulfill the duties of that office(?) But they respectfully invite him to leave to them the management of the Hope schools, particularly the employing of the teachers.

Yours truly,

MANY CITIZENS.