

buildings leased for school purposes, in three of which are taught Grammar Schools, to wit:—The Powell Street School, formerly occupied by the San Francisco Academy, accommodates a Grammar and Intermediate Schools numbering about three hundred children, A. Holmes, Esq., temporary Principal. The Primary Department of this school occupies a frame building on Washington Street, used in 1849 by J. C. Pelton, Esq., (now Superintendent,) who established the first public school on the Pacific Coast. The school thus established, now known as the Powell Street School, has continued to be a most flourishing and important one. The school on Hampton Place, Jno. Swett, Esq., Principal, with about four hundred pupils in all the departments. The school at the Nonantum House, Mission Street, H. P. Carlton, Esq., Principal—this being badly located and not well attended will probably be discontinued. There is also the Union Grammar, or High School, in the building on Powell Street, heretofore known as Doct. Borring's Church. About ninety pupils promoted from the grammar schools attend this school; M. E. Holmes is the Principal. Considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed in regard to the establishment of this school, and earnest efforts will be made to discontinue it, which aided by the necessity for retrenchment, will perhaps be successful. The Board here recently established an Evening School, which is certainly equal in importance to any of the others; it is attended by about three hundred young men and boys, ranging from thirty down to ten years of age, disqualified by age or prevented by their daily avocations from attending the day schools. A small monthly payment secures to the former the advantages of the very liberal course of studies prescribed at this institution.

The whole number of pupils in attendance at the public schools is near four thousand, consisting of about equal numbers of each sex. By the School Law pupilage is from four to eighteen years of age.

It has been observed by persons competent to form an opinion on the subject, that the pupils of our public schools evince an extraordinary disposition and a ready facility in the acquisition of knowledge and exhibit a degree of proficiency in the various studies pursued, certainly not surpassed if equaled in any other city of the Union. While on this subject, we avail ourselves of the remarks of a talented female Teacher, whose ample experience, in other fields favorable for

observation, lends great weight to her conclusions, she says:—"One peculiar feature to be marked in the children attending these schools is their healthful appearance. Their robust proportions, clear complexions, and excess of animal spirits, give full evidence that the bracing climate of San Francisco is highly favorable to the growth and development of the physical nature of children, and if properly trained, the mind, from very sympathy, must be susceptible of large culture, giving fair promise for the future of California. Perhaps in no city in any part of the world are there children brought together with such diversity of habits, creeds, thoughts and feelings, but with the ready adaptation and quick assimilation of childhood these destructive traits gradually pass away, they catch the impress of the prevailing tone and when they enter upon the responsible duties of life, will prove themselves Americans in heart and Americans in action. All ranks in society send their children to these schools, hence, if for no other reason, they should be exalted to the highest point of excellence, that the rich and the poor may alike, draw their intellectual sustenance from the same fountain. How important, then, that the teachers should be experienced, competent and responsible, that the instruction imparted be solid and practical, and that morality and refinement here find a place."

As a part of the system, the Board have established a Normal School, attended weekly by the Teachers and others interested in the subject of education. It bids fair, properly conducted, to become a useful adjunct to the department, tending, as it does, to the mutual improvement of the Teachers.

In closing our remarks on this subject, we earnestly desire to impress upon the citizens the great importance of the "Night School." It is ably conducted and well attended, and while it is an object of especial interest and benefit to the youth of the city, it should receive the fostering support and countenance of the citizens. Gentlemen of standing, fathers and guardians, should make it a point to visit it, and thus hold up the hands of the Teachers, and cheer on the Board in their most commendable efforts to extend the benefits of education to an important class, who otherwise would be in a great degree debarred from its advantages.

To the arduous labors of the Board of Education the Department is indebted for much of its efficiency. The citizens will gratefully remember