

SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The officers of the School Department consist of one School Director, elected in alternate districts once in two years, (the Directors consequently holding office during two years), and a Superintendent of Schools, elected once in two years, at the general elections, and a Secretary of the Board of Education, (the Superintendent acting in that capacity by virtue of his office.)

San Francisco has always been extremely fortunate in the choice of officers, elected to take the care and management of her greatest treasures.

Under the circumstances attending the establishment of the first School in 1849—and not less under those attending the re-organization of the Schools in 1852, nothing but true zeal and a devotion to their interests could have overcome the difficulties that opposed their progress. Neither of these requisites were wanting on the part of Mr. Pelton, who gave the Schools their *first existence*, or Mr. T. J. Nevins, who succeeded him. A Board of faithful and zealous friends of Education succeeded that, which was joined with and assisted Mr. Nevins, with Mr. O'Grady as Superintendent, and Mayor Garrison as President. By this Board much was done, and more attempted; and except for the unfortunate location of one or two fine School Houses they would have now very much to look back upon with pride and pleasure. Much progress was made by the Schools under their administration. Of the succeeding Board Mayor Webb was President; in him the Board had a dignified officer and the teachers a kind and safe adviser. The next Board was organized with Mayor Van Ness as President. Though, during his term he was constantly oppressed, sometimes well nigh overwhelmed by an accumulation of varied and perplexing duties, sufficient to completely overcome almost any man, he, nevertheless, evinced a deep and continued interest in the welfare of the Schools: Dr. E. A. Theller was Superintendent.

The great act of this Board during the year, the one which alone should entitle it to the unceasing gratitude of every friend of Education, was the harmoniously uniting of the two sets of Schools, (called the Ward and City Schools,) which had existed for several years dividing, rather than concentrating the efforts of their respective friends and advocates.

We have now come to the Board of last year. This was the first organized under the provisions of the Consolidation Act. J. C. Pelton, County

Superintendent, became City and County Superintendent. Mr. H. B. Janes was chosen President, and acted as such till the election of 1856. The Board was then re-organized, by the choice of Wm. Sherman, Esq., as President, and George Taite, Esq., Secretary, *pro tem*.

The facts connected with the operations and efforts of the Board of Education of last year, are doubtless, too fresh in the mind of every one, to render it necessary for us to more than remark, that though encompassed by many difficulties and by constant embarrassments and annoyances, the schools, by the exertions of Mr. Pelton, the Superintendent, united with those of the Board of Education, were enabled to overcome, and safely surmount every obstacle that presented itself to their continuance, now to be permitted to enjoy a more propitious day.

The schools are now as they have heretofore been, in safe and able hands. For President of the Board of Education, a better choice could scarcely be made than Wm. Sherman, Esq. His long experience in connection with the schools of this city, his untiring zeal, and known devotion to their interests, well fit him for the discharge of the duties of his responsible position, and entitle him to the confidence of parents, teachers and pupils, which we believe he fully enjoys.

Mr. Janes has long manifested a deep interest in the cause of education in this city. Having had much experience in connection with schools and a practical acquaintance with teaching, much may, no doubt, be expected of him during the ensuing two years.

As a part of the system, the Board should establish a Normal School, which should be attended weekly by the Teachers and others interested in the subject of education. If properly conducted it would soon become a useful adjunct to the Department, and tend to the mutual improvement of the Teachers, the elevation of the character of the Department, and dignity of their profession.

To the arduous labors of the Board of Education the Department is indebted for much of its efficiency. The citizens will gratefully remember these gentlemen, who have devoted so much time and labor without fee or hope of reward.

We have seldom seen gathered into so small a space so much valuable information as is contained in the following tabular exhibit of the Schools, which, from the great value of the statistics it contains, we take the liberty of introducing from the late report of Superintendent Pelton. From this table can be obtained, at a