

GENERAL REVIEW.

IN this department of the work we propose, annually, to give a brief glance at the operations of the different public institutions, and those private establishments which are deemed worthy of notice, with such details connected therewith as we may deem interesting to our readers.

Education and the Public Schools.

The following are the officers of the School Department: 1st District, R. O'Neill; 2d, A. S. Edwards; 3d, Wm. Sherman; 4th, S. B. Stoddard; 5th, B. F. Moses; 6th, C. L. Taylor; 7th, Wm. Pearson; 8th, E. B. Goddard; 9th, J. O. Eldridge; 10th, C. C. Knowles; 11th, E. Judson; 12th, J. Shade Dungan; President, Wm. Sherman; Superintendent, and *ex officio* Secretary, Henry B. Janes.

It is with pleasure that we lay before the citizens of San Francisco the highly satisfactory condition of the Public School Department.

Since our issue of last year no part of our municipal government has been more carefully sustained or judiciously provided for. No longer oppressed by debt, and embarrassed by a bankrupt treasury, the workings of the Board of Education and the improvement of the Schools have, during the last year, been without a precedent. This improved financial condition in School affairs, is attributable to the general and prompt payment of taxes on the part of our citizens, and to the wise and economical management of the Board of Education. The internal improvement of the different Schools of the Department has fully kept pace with its other general prosperity: from the zealous and constant efforts of the Superintendent, Henry B. Janes, and members of the Board of Education, prominent among whom we may justly mention the name of the President, Wm. Sherman, who during the past five years has been a most valuable member of the School Department, and for the past three years an occupant of the chair of the Board of Education.

Most fortunately for her own interests as well as for the permanent good of the whole State, San Francisco from an early period in her history, as an American community, has extended a fos-

tering care to the cause of free schools, and has to the fullest extent provided the means of instruction for the children of every citizen. No institution within her limits has received greater or more zealous attention; none has been more liberally and faithfully sustained. This is as it should have been, as we hope hereafter, may ever be the case. That our Public Schools form the basis upon which securely rests our nation's present greatness, and depends our future national permanence, and progress, and improvement, is not merely a well rounded, euphonious sentence, but one which expresses a substantial truth.

When in 1849, there rushed to these shores the busy throng of eager and restless adventurers, impatient in the pursuit of fortune, fame, or pleasure, happy for San Francisco, there came also others having a more abiding interest in her welfare; a higher object of pursuit—those impelled by a more enobling ambition. And when the exciting clatter of a thousand hammers echoed from every hill side, and San Francisco, as if by magic, was hastening into a real existence; *these* were busily, unobtrusively, yet perseveringly employed in giving her that moral and social life, which has signally elevated her, and which, as we trust, will hereafter grow with her growth, and strengthen with her strength, till it shall ripen into those graceful proportions of a moral and social society which shall render her the pride, and endearing home of her citizens.

Prominent among the early friends of San Francisco were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pelton, who, as it appears, left Boston, Mass., in the early part of 1849; and, (strange as it then appeared to those unacquainted with them, or the *real* motives that prompted their acts,) with the object of establishing here on the "far-off shores of the Pacific," a free Public School on the New England plan.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Arriving at San Francisco in the autumn of 1849, Mr. Pelton immediately made preparations for carrying out his cherished object. He soon found friends, and through them secured the free