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CHAPTER VI.

THIS small community (the State of New York) has taxed itself for the education of the people in common schools, to a greater amount than for all other items of government expenditure put together.

In 1851 the government expenditure for the year was 910,082 dollars. The aggregate expenditure for school purposes was 1,884,826 dollars, the second amount being more than double the first. In Massachusetts this difference is even more marked. There the annual expenses of executive, justice, and legislature, were for the same year, 166,821 dollars; for support of schools, 865,859 dollars. Well then may M. Siljeström, the Swede, remark, that the sums spent upon educational and philanthropic institutions in this country are truly astonishing; and Mr. Bancroft, the historian, say that the institutions of his country regard the creation of wealth itself as secondary to the distribution of it. Such an expenditure could not have been borne in any other than a republican country, where the habits of the people are inexpensive, and their most eminent men, such as judges of the Supreme Courts, and those who have filled the office of President, employ their leisure hours in teaching in Sunday schools, so as to fix the attention of the people upon this as the one thing needful.