

their conduct accords with the school regulations; and every person having property is required to contribute to the support of the school according to the assessed value of his property, protected and improved in the country, whether he has children or sends children to the school or not. Education of the youth of the land being a public good, and ignorance a public evil, the property of the country is made liable for the education of the youth of the country, and the taxes for this purpose are much less than those required to defray the expenses incurred by prisons, &c., in order to punish crimes which result from ignorance and its attendant vices, besides the loss and other evils inflicted upon the community by the creation and conduct of every vicious person.

3. *School-houses.*—The whole number of school-houses reported was 4,599—increase, 60; of which 642 are brick—increase, 48; stone, 372—increase, 15; frame, 1751—increase, 32; log, 1604—decrease, 41; not reported, 30—increase, 6. The whole number of school-houses built during the year was 101; of which 34 were brick, 7 stone, 41 frame and 19 log. Estimated value of school-houses and premises, \$2,097,922.

4. *School Visits.*—By Local Superintendents, 10,783—increase, 413, and considerably more than an average of two visits to each School; by Clergymen, 7,445—decrease, 185; by Municipal Councillors, 1,830—increase, 94; by Magistrates, 2,350—decrease, 216; by Judges and Members of Parliament, 440—increase, 32; by Trustees, 19,056—decrease, 348; by other persons, 33,540—increase, 1,570. Total number of visits to the schools, 75,444—increase, 1,360.

5. *Public School Examinations.*—Their number was 7,728—increase, 19; an average of less than two for each School, though the law directs that there should be *quarterly* Examinations in each School, of which the teacher should give notice to the Trustees, Parents, and Pupils, and to the School Visitors resident in the School Section.

6. *School Lectures.*—The number of school lectures delivered by Local Superintendents reported was 3,017—increase, 130; by other persons, 340—decrease 48. The whole number of lectures delivered was 3,357—increase, 82; not quite one for each school, though the law directs that each Local Superintendent should deliver at least one lecture during the year in each School Section under his charge. There is a gratifying increase of 130 lectures delivered by Local Superintendents; but the whole number of lectures delivered by them is less than three-fourths the number of schools.

7. *Recitations.*—The number of schools in which public recitations of prose and poetry by the pupils are practised were 2,047—increase, 166, a gratifying increase. This is a very useful exercise; it promotes the habit of accurate learning by heart, improvement in reading and speaking, and is an agreeable and often an amusing diversion. It ought to be practised in every school.

8. *Time of keeping the Schools open.*—The legal holidays and vacations include only about one month of the year—certainly too small a portion—less than what nearly every person in most pursuits in life takes for purposes of recreation, travelling and visiting. A longer vacation during hay and wheat harvest is often demanded, and would, I think, be a convenience to the greater part of the country and no detriment to the schools, as the attendance at school during that period is generally small and irregular. The average time of keeping open the schools, including holidays and vacations, was eleven months and four days—decrease, four days. The *actual average* time of teaching or keeping open the schools was, therefore, ten months—nearly three months longer than the reported average time of keeping open the schools in the States of Massachusetts and New York.

9. *School Prizes and Merit Cards.*—The number of schools in which prize books, &c., are reported as having been given for the reward and encouragement of meritorious pupils is 1,541—showing the large and gratifying increase of 220 schools, in which this stimulus to good conduct and diligence is employed by the intelligence and enterprise of Trustees and Teachers. On this subject I need but repeat my remarks of last year:—The importance of this comparatively new feature of the School System can hardly be over-estimated. A comprehensive catalogue of carefully-selected and beautiful prize books has been prepared and furnished by the Department to Trustees and Municipalities applying for them; and, besides furnishing the books at cost price, the Department adds one hundred per cent. to whatever amounts may be provided by Trustees and Municipal Councils to procure these prize books for the encouragement of children in their schools. A series of merit cards, with appropriate illustrations and mottoes, has been prepared by the