

raise the sum of Four Hundred Pounds in five equal successive yearly payments of £80 each, commencing in 1852, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the new building. The school site, being one acre of ground, has been bought for £47 10s. The contract has been let for £395. The building will have three school rooms, each of thirty-four by twenty-six feet, and fourteen feet high, and an entrance hall of twenty-six by ten feet, all to be warmed by hot air. The materials for building are bricks. All to be finished by the 1st of June next. The Board has also applied to the Municipal Council for the sum of £75 extra school tax, to defray the teacher's salaries, and other incidental expenses.

The progress of the scholars during the latter part of the year has been very gratifying, the excellent discipline introduced by the present teacher, Mr. James Baikle, has had a benevolent influence upon the conduct and behaviour of the pupils, both in and out of school. His superior mode of instruction, and strict attention to his duties, linked together with his affable manners, have won for him the respect of all parties, and the universal attachment of his pupils. He has thus laid a solid foundation for accomplishing the great aim of a school—to instruct the rising generation with useful knowledge, teach them the duties of man towards God, his neighbor, and himself, imposes upon the young mind the necessity and advantage of wholesome instruction, and take danger and disadvantage of ignorance, so that they may become useful members of society, an ornament and the pride of their nation, and a source of joy and comfort to their parents, when old age calls them to retire from the stage of activity of this earthly lodge. The average attendance of pupils during the last year, has also considerably exceeded the attendance of the former years. The report of 1851 shows an average attendance of 84, while the report of 1852 shows 106 out of 130 scholars on the register, which number would still be greater were it not for the want of room, on account of which many children are kept at home. The salary of the Teacher has been increased for the present year, in proportion to his additional labour and duties, and the Board has also engaged an assistant teacher, to take charge of the younger scholars, in order to enable the principal teacher to devote more time to the instruction of more advanced pupils.

UNITED STATES.

SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Petition of the P. E. Bishop of Michigan to the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan:

The undersigned is the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the diocese of Michigan. He has learned from the public newspapers and from petitions about to be presented to your honorable bodies, that an application is to be made for such a division of the school fund of this state, so that "in all cases the parent be left free to choose the teacher to whom he will entrust the education of his child." Such an application, if granted, he considers as giving the right, not only of parents but of every religious body, to select teachers, who will teach the peculiarities of the religious views or opinions they may hold. It will place the whole school fund of this state in the hands of religious bodies and sects, and entrust to them the education of the children of the state; for the right, if given to one, will be claimed by each and by all. Whatever the opinion the undersigned may entertain in reference to the system and effects of common school education, he begs leave to say, that he has no wish or desire to interfere with, or in any way alter or abridge, the system which has been the pride of this state, and which has furnished to so many thousands of her children the means of obtaining a high secular education—nor does he wish that the fund so generously granted to the people of this state, and so carefully guarded by her legislatures, and so highly prized by her citizens, should be used for the promotion of sectarian strife and bitterness.

It is one of the distinguishing features of our free institutions, and which lies at the foundation of the happiness and freedom of our people, that neither religious test nor religious preferences form any part of our legislation. All religious bodies are placed on precisely the same footing, and whatever may be the exclusive claims of each, and of all, they can only be settled by an appeal to a higher and a different authority than state legislatures. But, if your honorable body sees fit to overturn and destroy that system, which has been heretofore so carefully guarded, and which has introduced into every occupation and profession some of the most distinguished men of the state, and which has brought to the door of the poor man the means of educating his children: and if the priests and clergymen of every religious body are to take the place of the common school teacher, and the state is to assume the duty, through them, of extending and building up religious differences, and of fomenting strife and contention—then the undersigned most reluc-

tantly would claim to have his share in this work. If, then, such a change is to be made in our common school law, so as to allow parents to choose teachers for their children, the undersigned would respectfully ask for his proportion of the common school fund, so that the people entrusted to his spiritual oversight may employ such teachers as will fully carry out their religious preferences. He would freely and frankly state to your honorable bodies, that the amount thus granted shall be carefully used in teaching the principles and doctrines of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and that the services of as many clergymen and laymen of the church shall be secured and used, so that no other principles and doctrines shall find any place in the different schools.

SAMUEL A. MCCOSKEY,

Bishop, &c., of Michigan.

Detroit, January 19, 1853.

MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY—PRUSSIA AND MICHIGAN.

The chair of ancient languages has been filled the present year by Prof. Boies, formerly of Brown University, a ripe scholar and experienced in teaching. The chair of logic and history has been offered by the Regents this present week to Rev. N. O. Haven, of the Methodist church in New York city, who, it is hoped, will soon enter upon his duties. The office of chancellor or president has been filled by the election of Rev. Dr. Tappan, of New York University. His inauguration took place on the 21st instant. At the appointed hour the large church was filled with citizens and strangers. To a very appropriate address by Mr. Palmer, of the Board of Regents, reminding him of the design of the University, the great interests and responsibility committed to his hands, their high expectations and confidence in his capacity, and his regular induction into office as the first Chancellor. Prof. Tappan responded in a speech of great power and beauty, occupying more than two hours. After acknowledging the importance of the station which, unsought, he now entered upon, he adverted to the situation and unexampled prosperity of our State, saying that Prussia and Michigan had the credit of creating educational systems, and we were indebted to those who had proposed ours. Though it is sustained by the State, private munificence may not be dispensed with.

An estate would be more surely entailed by endowing a professorship, or founding an observatory, than in any other way. Though ours is a great State, it should make men as well as railroads, and circulate truth as well as gold and silver. The principle of our school system was grand and comprehensive, and reached far back to our earliest dates. It includes the primary schools, which are necessary to the existence of higher institutions, and for them teachers should be fully prepared and qualified, to which the Normal school should be cherished. There is no rivalry of institutions, but a unity of design and plan. Should he not comprehend its greatness and importance, and do his utmost for it, the shades of the dead, and voices of the living, would cry shame! We need not depend on foreign lands or learned books or men.

After a rapid survey of the different species of knowledge, the speaker laid down his plan for the University, touching rather severely upon our desire for fine buildings, and nice rooms, while we neglect the libraries and other means of furnishing the mind, expending our means upon brick and mortar, which we ought to be paying to professors of lectures in every department of science and art which any one might wish to pursue. The thing proposed was to carry out fully the Prussian system which we have adopted, appointing full faculties, conferring various degrees according to studies and proficiency, and thus build up an Institution in every respect the best in the country, and which should be a centre of attraction to students from this and other States. These views were urged with great force and clearness, and his best efforts pledged to their furtherance.

The medical department numbers over 150 students, a fact unexampled among similar institutions at the same age.

It is in contemplation to erect an Observatory in connection with the University of Michigan. A public meeting was held in Buffalo, a few days since, at which Dr. Tappan, President of the University, expressed the views of the friends of the project. To complete the work, the sum of \$10,000 is required.—*Detroit Advertiser.*

MASSACHUSETTS COMMON SCHOOLS.—16TH REPORT.

The main topic discussed in the report of the Secretary of the Board, is the abolition of the district school system, and the grading of the public schools. This plan has been tried in several towns, and with much success. The subject is ably discussed by Dr. Sears, and his remarks are entitled to the earnest consideration of the friends of education throughout the state. The secretary recommends no immediate legislation upon the subject, but thinks that when the general voice of those who take an interest in our public schools shall favor the movement, the repeal of the law authorizing school districts would be expedient.