

united action of Commissioners and Supervisors, whilst a very large number have, by their direction, been repaired, and provided, as they never were before, with proper fuel, pails, brooms, and other implements necessary to keep them clean, and render them reasonably comfortable for use. It is gratifying to report these improvements, in view of their influence upon the comfort, morals and memories of the pupils."

2.—HIGHER AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

There are 20 Colleges in the State, 226 Academies, (attended by nearly 30,000 pupils,) 5 Law Schools, 11 Medical Schools, 1 Military Academy, 1 Institution for Deaf and Dumb, and 1 Institution for the Blind, besides other benevolent institutions. Not only the public schools, and the schools of all institutions sharing in State grants for educational purposes, but the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylums, the Houses of Refuge, Reformatory Schools, &c., are under the supervision of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

We are largely indebted to the State of New York for the original outline of our own Canadian Common School system; and we may avail ourselves still further of the experience of that State on some points, both for warning and imitation.

XXII.—STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1.—COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The foundation of the present system of Common School education was laid by an Act passed in 1834, but the general Act then passed has undergone various amendments, especially in 1854, until 1866-7. At first the acceptance of the law was optional with the townships, towns and cities, but was made obligatory on all in 1849,—the great majority having previously accepted it by popular vote. The present school system in Pennsylvania seems more comprehensive and more thoroughly matured than that of New York, though popular education is less advanced.

The State Superintendent of Common Schools is appointed by the Executive with the advice of the Senate for the term of three years, is invested with large powers, and is also required to visit the Normal Schools and attend Teachers' Institutes.

Normal Schools.—The State is divided into twelve Normal School districts. Each district must provide the premises and buildings of its own Normal Schools, which may be established by the union of thirteen or more citizens, for the training of teachers in such district, and must be under the direction of a Board of Trustees who are to report to the State Superintendent. In order to be accepted by the State, the Normal School must have ten acres of ground, and