

one of her best investments. Over and above her public schools, this State had in the same year (1839) 1,111 private academies and schools incorporated and unincorporated; in which 31,447 pupils were receiving instruction, at an additional cost of \$302,478.

Thus are we initiated, in some measure, into the secret of the superiority of Massachusetts over her sister states; of the respect she commands every where, and of the influence she is exerting in the newer regions, whither her sons are carrying her churches and schools and modes of feeling, and where their efforts will by and by be crowned with a success which will more than reward them.

In the character of the instruction given in our schools, an improvement is taking place fully equal, we believe, to the progress making in other respects. Here the Normal School is, under the superintendence of its able and indefatigable masters, rendering us great service.

The substitution which there seems a disposition to make, wherever practicable, of large school houses, erected on the most approved principles, and supplied with all the facilities for instruction which the best text-books, maps, plates, apparatus, and so forth afford,—but above all with such a number of qualified Teachers as admits of proper subdivision of labour and classification of pupils—in the place of the small, ill-ventilated room in which the scholars have been wont to be shut up with their single and oppressed master, is peculiarly gratifying. Schools like those in London and Brantford, which I have had the pleasure of seeing in operation, I should think it difficult for any one to visit without wishing to see the country covered with them.

As illustrative of the spirit of our schools, it is worthy of observation that, while no violence to conscience is attempted or countenanced, the Bible is read in 2,067 of them, or fully two-thirds of the whole; and that, in many cases, ministers of the gospel, of various denominations, hold, by the choice of the community, the place of superintendents.

The increase of visits paid to the schools by “clergymen, councillors, magistrates and others,” which were in 1830, 18,318 against 11,675 in 1847, shows a growing interest in them which is pleasing; but the fact by which the country’s feeling in respect to them is expressing itself most unequivocally, is the readiness, unanimity, and liberality with which the people are taxing themselves for their support.

For the improvements we have been tracing, so full of hope for the future, it is but justice to acknowledge that we are largely in-