

than to any other agency, or to all other agencies combined, we owe our educational progress during the last twelve years." I need not multiply numerous similar testimonies on this point.

2.—QUALIFICATIONS OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

In immediate connection with, and as a second part of the foregoing suggestion, I would submit that the appointment of local superintendent ought to be restricted to a person who has, at least, the qualifications of a first-class teacher, and who has had experience in teaching, and who will, therefore, be able to manipulate a school himself, and aid the less experienced teacher by example, as well as counsel, to manage and teach his or her school. It will have been seen, that in the State of Pennsylvania, the selection of the County Superintendent is not only vested in the "school directors of the several counties," but is restricted to "a person of literary and scientific acquirements and of skill and experience in teaching." In England so much importance is attached to the qualifications of inspectors, that only men of a University Standing are appointed; and it will have been seen in the former part of this report, that the chief instrument of the marvellous success and efficiency of the system of popular instruction in Holland and other Continental countries, is the selection of able and practical men as School Inspectors, whom, the venerated founder of the Holland School system told the French School Commissioner, "should be sought as with a lighted candle." I have been assured by many County Councillors, that they would consider the authoritative defining of a local superintendent's qualifications for office, as a great help in enabling them to resist improper electioneering pressure, and in the selection of the best qualified men for that important work. The appointment should of course, be during pleasure—virtually during good behaviour and efficiency.

3.—CONSTITUTION OF COUNTY BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

I think a great improvement may also be made in the constitution of County Boards of Examiners, or of Public Instruction, as they are called. In England the examiners to award scholarships in Colleges, or offices in the Indian service, founded on competitive examination, or any scholastic honour, or bursaries, are never more than three, often not more than two, sometimes only one. In the State of Ohio, under the new law, the County Board of Examiners of teachers consists of only three, appointed, not by popular election, but by the Judge of Probate; and even the State Board of Examiners for the State and life certificates to teachers, consists of but three, appointed by the State Commissioner. I think, therefore, if each County Board of Public Instruction, which is simply a Board of Examiners, and which now consists of local Superintendents and all Trustees of Grammar Schools, were reduced to three competent persons in each County, it would be a great saving of time and expense, and contribute much to the efficiency of such Boards. Perhaps the County Judge, the county superintendent, and a practical first-class Teacher, appointed by the County Council, or by a County Teachers' Association, would be as economical and efficient a County Board of Examiners as could be devised.