

intendent early requested the Head Masters and Head Mistresses of the several City Schools to forward to his office "a statement of their respective opinions of the causes of the generally diminished school attendance this year, as compared with that of 1865; illustrated by such facts and figures as the school registers or their own knowledge might supply."

The extent of the diminution referred to has been reported monthly by the Local Superintendent to the Board. In his report, No. 6, he reviewed the average attendance for the six months which had then expired, as compared with that of the corresponding months of last year, and shewed that, on the average of the six months, it was less by 188 in 1866 than in 1865; the largest decrease being 262 in January and the smallest being 100 in March. In July the difference was 233 in favour of 1865.

The following is a summary of the returns of the several principal teachers, which contain their views regarding the diminished attendance :—

PALACE STREET SCHOOL.

Mr. Gill, Head Master of the Palace Street School, states, "that the diminution has been caused by a larger proportion of children being sent to work this year than last," and adds "that a greater number have been sent this year than for the three preceding years together; and that while the children heretofore sent out to work were nearly of an age to leave the schools, (viz. 16 years) the majority of those sent out this year have not been allowed