

returned, 63. Average number of scholars, 3,932. Amount paid for tuition, \$74,223 93. Number of private schools and academies, 691. Estimated average attendance, 18,903. Estimated amount paid for tuition, \$333,940 09.

From these statistics it appears that there is a decrease in the number of children, between five and fifteen years of age, of 2,925; indicating a loss of more than twelve thousand in the population of the State. There are four Normal Schools in the State. Students admitted during the year 284; Received certificates 135; Expenses \$14,030.

2. PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

The whole number of school districts in the State, exclusive of the cities, is reported to be 11,358, being an increase of 49 during the past year. The average number of persons between the ages of 4 and 21 years in each district is 79½. The average number attending school in each district is 53. The number of school houses is 11,318, being an increase of 43 during the year. In two years and nine months past, more than \$2,000,000 have been expended in the State for new school houses and repairs. The number of persons in the State between the ages of 4 and 21 is reported at 1,272,436. The number attending the public schools in 1859 was 851,533. About 200,000 children attended the academies and private schools, leaving about 200,000 of school age not in school at all.

The total receipts from all sources from October 1st, 1858, to October 1st, 1859, were in the cities, \$2,122,810 57; in the country, \$2,033,933 51; total \$4,156,744 08.

The expenditure for the year ending September 30th, 1859, was:

For Teachers' wages	\$2,443,184 80
For Libraries and school apparatus	156,326 37
For coloured schools.....	24,364 00
For school-houses, sites and repairs	724,292 47
For incidental expenses	316,449 93

Total \$3,664,617 57

The amount so expended was raised as follows:

Balance unexpended from the previous year	\$422,921 54
From Common School Fund and State Tax	1,322,683 33
From gospel and school lands.....	19,384 64
From school district tax	1,921,464 05
From school district rate bills	414,062 72
From all other sources	58,227 80
Amount remaining unexpended	492,126 51
Number of school districts in the State	11,621
Number of school houses	11,576
Number of children between 4 and 21.....	1,262,486
Number of children attending the Public Schools	851,533
Number of teachers employed within the year	26,411

The whole number of pupils in attendance at the Normal School during the past year has been three hundred and twelve, of which sixty-three have graduated. The whole number of pupils who have been in the school since its establishment is three thousand two hundred and eighty-eight. The number now in attendance is two hundred and fifty-three.

The Academies constitute the important part of the educational system of the State. They are established by private contributions for buildings, apparatus, and libraries, which at the date of the last Report amounted to \$2,222,207. They receive from the Literature and United States Deposit Funds \$40 000 annually.

Twenty-three schools for Indian children, are now in operation in various sections of the state. Though labouring under the disadvantage of teaching a language diverse from that usually employed by the pupils, they are making satisfactory progress. Several of the schools are under the direction of native teachers, who discharge their duties with a fidelity and ability highly creditable.

On the important subject of the distribution of school money the Superintendent says: However few the scholars, or irregular the attendance, if six months' school is maintained, each district draws its money—not in accordance with the educational spirit it manifests or the benefits it bestows—but in proportion to the accidental number of persons of school age residing within its borders. I submit, therefore, to the judgment of the Legislature, whether the basis of distribution of two-thirds of the public money, within the counties, should not be made with reference to the average aggregate attendance upon the schools, during the first six months of the school year,* leaving the other third to be distributed, as now, equally

amongst all the districts. The inevitable result of such a course would be, to make the inhabitants of each district directly interested in the largest practicable attendance upon the schools. The greater the number of scholars, the greater will be the amount of money received. Every parent will be more likely to send his children to school when, in effect, he received a compensation for each day's attendance—and that attendance will be more regular, when he feels that each day's absence diminishes the amount bestowed, and increases the necessary taxation for the support of the school.

The report closes with a general review of the condition of the schools, the Superintendent saying:—

The problem is still to be solved, whether the American of the succeeding generation shall hold the same pre-eminence in general intelligence which he has hitherto enjoyed; or whether he shall be excelled in this respect by the natives of other climes, whom inclination or ill fortune may throw upon our shores. If we would maintain our national supremacy—if we would melt the mixed races with which our country is thronged into one homogeneous population, we must extend to all the benefits of thorough common school education—we must indoctrinate our youth with the advantages of superior knowledge, and endow them with all the educational facilities requisite to a life of honor, usefulness and virtue.

Recommendations are made by the State Superintendent in regard to Indian Schools, the Institutions for the Deaf Mutes and Blind, School Supervision, the Election and duty of trustees, and the revision and simplification of the School Laws.

3. PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

There are 52 Ward schools, which include 44 grammar schools for boys, 45 for girls, 3 for boys and girls, and 46 primary departments; 35 primary and 8 colored schools. Pupils on register 138,688, average attendance, 51,489; pupils in Free Academy, 830, in the 44 evening schools, 15,351, in the 3 normal schools, 650, and in the 12 corporate institutions, which share in the public money, 7,309, making in all 161,828 pupils. In the Free Academy, a university education can be obtained, including the highest branches. There are in all about two hundred and eighty organized common schools of all kinds, at which are taught over a hundred thousand pupils. The appropriation for the Board of Education for the last ten years has been as follows:

1850.....	\$267,968	1856.....	\$1,023,354
1851.....	447,487	1857.....	1,100,410
1852.....	502,315	1858.....	1,226,013
1853.....	604,000	1859.....	1,246,080*
1854.....	668,814		
1855.....	956,000	Total for ten years,	\$8,042,361

The expenditure for 1859 was as follows:—For salaries of teachers and janitors, \$617,128 91; new school-houses and repairs, \$363,946 23; fuel, \$29,530 19; books, stationery and apparatus, \$72,485 73; salaries of officers of the Board, \$25,167 63; Free Academy, \$50,112 04; evening schools, \$69,089 23; normal schools, \$9,155 73; contingencies, \$9,384 31. Total, \$1,246,000. Of this sum \$1,038,667 05 was raised by city tax, and the remainder, \$207,332 95, was appropriated from the State fund, toward which the city contributed an equal amount, and \$191,684 03 in addition.

These annual expenditures, though large, are yet small when compared with the results and the number of children taught. Besides, in them are included the cost of the purchase of sites and the erection of several spacious school-houses amounting in 1858, to over \$300,000 for that year. Estimating the population of this city at 800,000 (it may be nearer 1,000,000), the tax on each person for school purposes is less than \$1 50 per annum, or for a family of six persons a tax of seventeen cents per week, or estimating the average number of children taught at 100,000, and the average expenditure at \$1,200,000, the annual expense of teaching each pupil is but \$12.†

The whole of the public schools are under the direction of the Board of Education. This body has control of the general interests of the public schools. Its members are elected by the people, and are responsible to no other power. In the several wards there are also local school boards, which in many respects are independent of the Board of Education. Thus the system is complex and intricate, wanting simplicity, solidity and uniformity. This decentralization causes unnecessary outlays of money and much confusion in the

* About equal to the total school and college expenditures of Upper Canada, where the number of pupils is three times as great as that in the city of New York!

† The total number of pupils in Upper Canada, including its colleges, is upwards of 300,000; in New York only 100,000, while the cost of education is about the same in both places!

* The principle of average attendance as the basis for the distribution of the School fund is not new in Upper Canada; it has been successfully applied for several years.