

ON THE EXTENSION OF TRUSTEES' TERM OF OFFICE TO THREE YEARS.

The election of Trustees for School districts for a term of three years, in connexion with the annual election of one of their number, cannot fail to secure a much more efficient and systematic administration of the affairs of the several districts, than has heretofore been found practicable. The duties and responsibilities of this class of officers are important; and their intelligent performance requires experience, as well as public spirit. Great embarrassments have heretofore been experienced in relation to the pecuniary concerns of the districts, and the fulfilment of contracts with Teachers and others, arising from the frequent and entire change of Trustees, and the impracticability in money cases, on the part of new officers, of obtaining a satisfactory account of the affairs of the district from their predecessors; and not unfrequently, large amounts have been recovered by legal process against the former, on the unexecuted contracts of the latter, for which no indemnity, short of legislative provision, existed. Under the present system, ample time is afforded for the complete execution of all contracts entered into by the Trustees; and on the accession of a new officer, he will always find two colleagues intimately acquainted with the concerns of the district, and prepared to co-operate efficiently in the administration of its affairs. Every facility will thus be afforded for the systematic transaction of official business, and for the enlightened discharge of official duty.—*N. Y. State Superintendent's Annual Report of 1844, pp. 25, 26.*

UNIFORMITY OF THE TEXT BOOKS IN SCHOOLS.

It is believed that the period has now arrived when an earnest and systematic effort should be made, under the auspices of the Town and County Superintendents, to relieve our institutions of elementary instruction from the serious embarrassments resulting from the diversity and constant change of text books. The several County Superintendents are therefore enjoined to avail themselves of the earliest practicable opportunity to cause an uniform series of text books, embracing all the elementary works ordinarily used in the common schools, to be adopted in each of the districts subject to their supervision, under the direction and with the consent of the Trustees; and when so adopted, not to be changed for the term of three years. Whenever such uniformity can be extended throughout all the districts of the Town, and throughout all the Towns of the County, it is very desirable that such extension should be made; but from the great diversity of views in relation to the relative merit of different works, the progress of this extension must necessarily be slow. The foundations may, however, be laid by the attainment of uniformity in the respective districts, for an ultimate harmony of views and concert of action on a wider theatre.—*Official instructions of N. Y. State Superintendent of Schools, 1843.*

INTELLECT.—The only true source of happiness is that which springs from the intellect, because it is pleasure enjoyed by that faculty which is to live throughout eternity; and it is not certain whether our amount of happiness in the next world may not depend upon our intelligence and the cultivation of our talents in this, provided they are cultivated consistently with religion.