

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

TEACHERS' CONVENTION OR INSTITUTES.

In the former part of this number (pp. 202-205,) we have inserted an extract from the last Annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools in the State of Connecticut on the subject of Conventions or temporary Normal Schools for Teachers ; as also some remarks on the same subject in an extract from the Message of Governor BRIGGS to the Legislature of Massachusetts, pages 207-208. In several of the neighboring States, these Institutes are annually held in each county under the authority of Acts of the Legislatures, and according to regulations prepared for their management by the State Superintendents, and assisted to the amount of from fifty to one hundred dollars each to procure Lecturers and defray other necessary expenses, of which a detailed account to the State Superintendent is required under oath. These Institutes are regarded as of the utmost importance in promoting the efficiency of Common School Instruction ; and no one can read the brief account of them which we have inserted without being impressed with the great advantages which would result from their judicious introduction into each District of Upper Canada. In his Educational Tour last autumn, the Superintendent of Schools intimated in most of the Districts the hope that his next annual tour might be connected with the establishment of such conventions, as well as School Libraries ; and the intimation was in every instance received with lively satisfaction. In no way could the Provincial Superintendent during a part of the year more effectually promote the interests of general education, than by an annual visit to each District such as was made last autumn, and by addresses and counsels at meetings and otherwise exciting an increased interest in the great cause of popular education, and introducing and improving the general system in its various parts and applications. There is little probability of the Superintendent of Schools being able to repeat his intended visit to the several Districts during the present year. In the meantime, we direct the attention of District Superintendents and Teachers, as well as the Clergy and other friends of education, to the subject of Teachers Conventions or Institutes. We are persuaded that in every District of Upper Canada a sufficient number of competent Speakers and able Teachers may be found to conduct with interest and profit the exercises of one or more such meetings.

The graduates of the State Normal School at Albany are represented in the State Superintendent's last Report as having distinguished themselves and rendered most important service at several of these County School Conventions ; and we doubt not but some of the Students in our own Provincial Normal