

## EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The report of the United States Commissioner of Education for 1880 is before us. It is a most elaborate volume, comprising a complete record of the year specified, and a brief survey of the preceding decade. The aim of this costly and carefully compiled publication is to elucidate the bearing of education on national progress and prosperity.

The principles of classification adopted are such as are deemed best adapted to throw light upon both the quantity and the quality of the school work performed in the country. A comparative study of the educational statistics contained in this volume and the census tables of illiteracy makes it clear beyond dispute, that illiteracy is in universe ratio to the condition of the public schools; "where they are most numerous and flourishing, illiteracy is at the minimum, and until the reverse is true, no argument, criticism or opposition will prevail against them." As might be expected the qualifications and enumeration of teachers differ widely in the several states of the union. Average salaries for male teachers are represented as varying from \$25.24 per month in South Carolina to \$101.47 per month in Nevada; for female teachers from \$17.44 per month in Vermont to \$77 in Nevada. In reference to the matter of teachers' salaries, the report contains an extract from General McLellan's report to the Legislature of New Jersey, in which it is urged that the law should fix a minimum salary for every grade of teachers, and provide for a state school-tax each year sufficient to produce the required sum. It is claimed that such a system, however rigid and mechanical in appearance, would not injuriously affect local liberality in supplementing the sum fixed by statute.

The salaries paid the teacher of city schools present more attractive figures. The principal of the City Normal School, New York, receives a salary of \$6000, the principals of the high schools, Boston, each \$3780.

The condition of normal schools through the union is treated in the report with admirable fulness and perspicuity. There are eighty-four normal schools supported by state appropriations, twenty-one by city appropriations, and one receiving county aid. The largest appropriation to a single institution was \$95,000 in 1880 to the City Normal College, New York. But four other schools received more than \$20,000 each, and eight states extend \$25,000 and upward annually upon their normal schools.

The summaries of school income, expenditure, funded endowments are lucidly discussed in connection with the strong demand put forth for national aid to education. The Southern States, as a rule, are without permanent school funds of any considerable magnitude, and it is claimed that it would be but an act of justice to place these, by a grade national measure of relief, on an equality with the Northern and Western States, whose schools-funds have resulted from large national land grants.

We cannot follow the commissioner in his detailed consideration of subjects and methods of instruction. Kindergartens chiefly prevail, they have increased from 43 in 1873 to 232 in 1880. They include 524 teachers and 8871 pupils.

Industrial education in public schools is limited to sewing in the girls' grammar schools of Boston, and industrial and free-hand drawing as required by the laws of Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, and a few cities of other states.

The combination of work shops and schools has not proved successful, though the commissioner thinks that, with the example of France illustrating the problem, the attempt will be renewed, perhaps more successfully. We cannot close this brief reference without endorsing the opinion expressed by commissioner Eaton, that the National Bureau of Education, of which he is chief, sustains relations to the general educational interests of the country of the greatest importance.

## THE MUNRO EXHIBITIONS AND BURSARIES.

Thirty-six students are now attending lectures in Dalhousie College, Halifax, as holders of either exhibitions or bursaries established for the benefit of that institution through the munificence of Mr. George Munro, the well-known New York publisher. In a few years the natural development of the system will increase this number to *sixty*, the apparent design being to distribute *five* exhibitions and *ten* bursaries among the members of each of the four undergraduate classes. Already the two lower classes are enjoying the benefit of this generous provision, and will continue to do so until the completion of their respective courses. A new quadrennial series is also announced to begin with the class which will matriculate in 1883. As exhibitions and bursaries represent respectively \$200 and \$150 per annum, Mr. Munro's benefactions to Dalhousie in this particular department of aid, bid fair to soon reach the annual value of \$10,000. The results of this large-hearted attempt to stimulate higher education cannot but be awaited with interest.

## THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION.

We direct the attention of our readers to the outline, in another column of the programme for the next Ontario Teachers' Association. The subjects are all important and we have no doubt that when the names are announced it will be found that each is the right man in the right place. We also republish for the information of the teachers generally, the following paragraph from a circular sent out by the secretary of the Provincial association, Mr. R. W. Doan of this city. Speaking of the minutes of the annual convention he says:—

"The circulation of the Minutes among teachers will not only be the means of informing them of the views of the General Convention on the debated questions of the day, but it will also afford them an opportunity of assisting the Provincial Association by reducing the annual loss attendant on printing and circulating the Minutes. These are supplied at ten cents per copy. On all orders for thirty copies and upwards, a reduction of twenty-five per cent. is made on the above rate. In some of the County Associations a copy is given to each member who has paid his fees for the current year."