

of 1865. In my monthly report at the beginning of July, I deemed it necessary to make the following remarks : " In reviewing the average attendance for the six months of this year which have already elapsed, I find that, as compared with the same month in last year, our number was less in January, by 262 pupils ; in February, by 118 ; in March, by 100 ; in April, by 186 ; in May, by 235 ; and in June, by 229. The average reduction on the six months was 188. Of this number an average of 49 was in the 3rd (senior) Male Divisions a clear indication, in my view, that the advanced cost of living in this city since last fall has compelled many parents to find active employment for their boys at even the lowest rates of remuneration. This view is confirmed by the testimony of most of the Head Masters, whose registers I have inspected in order to ascertain the causes of the disappearance of pupils, with whose countenances I had become familiar in the several schools. These remarks will also apply to the 2nd (senior) Division of the Palace Street School. For the somewhat diminished attendance in the Senior Female Divisions generally, I believe they will also account." In July the average attendance was less by 233 pupils than in July, 1865 ; nor was it at all likely that any improvement would take place during what is ordinarily the hottest school month of the year, which also immediately precedes the summer vacation. After the summer vacation, however, the tide began to turn, and it has flowed with tolerable steadiness for the remainder of the year.

After the improvement had begun in September, though before it was reported, which could not be until the end of

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