

Appended to this circular is a classified summary of titles and dates of the constitutional provisions in the several States and Territories from the beginning of their existence to the most recent date, anticipating in some respects the recommendations of the President. For example:—

Sectarian schools are forbidden from receiving school moneys in : Arkansas, Wisconsin, Ohio, Kansas, Nevada, Nebraska, South Carolina, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Mississippi.

Educational qualification of voters is required in : Connecticut, Massachusetts and Missouri.

No distinction of race and colour established in : Ohio, South Carolina and Louisiana ; and *funds to be applied without regard to colour* in Missouri.

Compulsory attendance may be required in : Nevada, Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas and South Carolina.

That education is the bulwark of the nation is no new doctrine, and educated people generally so regard it. Hence its benefits should be disseminated without stint, in such wise that even the uneducated may see and know that the weal or woe of every community depends upon it. If children are not properly educated at school or at home, they are educated in the highways and streets ; if not educated by duly qualified teachers or parents, they are instructed by companions older than themselves in ignorance and wickedness ; if not educated in virtue, then in vice, and *this* is much more thorough and efficient of its kind than that which is obtained in the schools. Ignorance and vicious training are the common parents of crime, and criminals destroy wealth instead of producing it, and become a tax on society at large. The practical fruits of education *out* of school are to be seen in our criminal calendars all over the country. And the expense of this kind of education is to be estimated in the appropriations for sustaining police, criminal courts, gaols, penitentiaries and almshouses, to say nothing of dens of vice and crime in perpetual existence equally due to the same cause ; for it is well known that criminals are mostly drawn from those who have had but little or no instruction in school. These are common truths, but never so patent as in recent years.

Every State in the Union has been more or less embarrassed by the rapid increase of the uneducated population from abroad, and the immigration of the uneducated classes. And one of the results of the civil war has been a sudden accession of a large number from a domestic source, overwhelming the people in some sections by a shift of State government into the hands of the most ignorant portion of the community. To meet these difficulties, redoubled effort has been required by all who have had the welfare of the State at heart. The Bureau of Education is an outcome of this effort ; the *diffusion of information* being regarded by all intelligent people as the most potent means of promoting intelligence. Hence the benefits of disseminating information on all educational interests, especially, as the basis of intelligence on all other subjects. The *ways and means* of education require sowing broadcast, so that even the uneducated may see and learn that the future of every community depends upon the degree in which these ways and means are used.

The memorial of the National Educational Association, prepared by Hon. E. E. White, of Ohio, 1866, which formed the basis for the creation of the Bureau, unequivocally pronounced against any interference whatever with the freedom of the States in educational interests. And in contravention of the opposing views of some leading educators, the same Association, to make its position on the subject perfectly distinct, adopted a resolution as follows :

Resolved, That, in petitioning Congress for the creation of a Department of Education in connection with the general government, this Association contemplates neither the establishment of a national system of education nor any interference whatsoever with the systems of education established in the several States."

Concurrent with these views of the memorialists on the sphere of the Bureau, are those expressed in Congress by the prominent men who aided in its establishment. Mr. Boutwell, then in the House, remarked : " This measure is no invasion of State rights. It does not seek to control anybody. It does not interfere with the system of education anywhere. It only proposes to furnish the means by which, from a Bureau here, every citizen of every State in the Republic can be informed as to the means of education existing, and applied in the most advanced sections of this country and the world." General Garfield and others expressed themselves in similar strain. And in the Senate, Mr. Trumbull, answering the objection that it was a scheme to take the control of education from the States, and give it to the United States, said,— " It was not so by any means. It was merely for the establishment of a centre for the dissemination of information among the States as to improvements in building school-houses, in methods of imparting instruction and so on, and for giving a history of the dis-

position of a vast amount of property which the nation has donated for purposes of education."

With these and other equally as clear enunciations of the objects of the memorialists, nine years ago, the Bureau of Education was established, " for the purpose of collecting such statistics and facts as shall show the condition and progress of education in the several States and Territories, and of diffusing information respecting the organization and management of school systems and methods of teaching as shall aid the people of the United States in the establishment and maintenance of efficient school systems, and otherwise promote the cause of education."

The correspondence of the Bureau now comprehends 48 States and Territories, 206 cities, 132 normal schools (including normal departments in colleges and other schools), 144 business colleges, 54 kindergartens, 1,445 academies, 103 schools especially engaged in preparing pupils for colleges, 240 institutions for the higher training of young women, 383 colleges and universities, 73 schools of science, 115 of theology, 37 of law, and 98 of medicine ; with 585 libraries, 26 art museums, 53 museums of natural history, 40 institutions for the instruction of deaf mutes, 28 for blind, 9 for feeble-minded, 400 for orphans, and 45 for the reformation of misguided youth. Total list of institutions in correspondence with Bureau, over 4,000, and constantly increasing.

The " diffusion " of information, etc., is applied in the form of Annual Reports, comprehending abstracts of the various kinds and classes of instruction, circulars of information on special subjects and spheres pertaining to education, both domestic and foreign.

At the session of the Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association, held in Washington, January, 1874, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously :

Resolved, That the Convention strongly approves the policy hitherto pursued by the Federal Government, of leaving the people and local government of each State to manage their own educational affairs without interference, believing that the principle on which this policy is based is as sound educationally as it is politically.

Resolved, That this Convention acknowledges the great service done to the cause of Education by Congress in establishing and maintaining a Department of Education similar in principle to those of Agriculture and Statistics, whereby appropriate information from all parts of the world may be gathered, digested and distributed, and whereby a number of important ends may be subserved in connection with the work of education. It would also acknowledge the very valuable services already done by the Bureau of Education, and would venture to express the hope that its means of usefulness may be increased.

The Report of the Commissioner for 1874, after alluding to the financial embarrassments which have affected the prosperity of the schools during the year, the proper work of the office in collecting and disseminating information for the use of educators, the difficulties encountered in studying the numerous and different school systems in vogue, and the importance of complete and continuous records of the forces at work and the results obtained, proceeds to mention the

Sources of Material used in the Report.—These are : (1) all educational information printed by authority, either in the form of reports or catalogues or educational journals ; (2) the returns made directly to the Bureau by State or city educational officials, or by the principals of schools, colleges, &c., on the blanks furnished, from which the statistical tables are made ; (3) other communications made directly to the Bureau by teachers and officers of systems or institutions of education.

All the States and Territories are able now to report their school population, and the increase for the year is 416,125. This increase becomes apparent only in those States which annually enumerate a school population, and not those which unfortunately use for each decade the returns of the United States census. It is gratifying to observe the growing determination of each State to take an annual census of the school population. Four States (one less than in 1873) cannot report the number enrolled in the public schools, and yet there will be noticed an increased enrolment of 164,385. Only 30 States can report the number in daily attendance (one less than in 1873), and yet an increase of 321,825 is reported. Thirty-five out of 37 States and 8 out of 11 Territories report the number of teachers. The increase—exclusive of 148 from two Territories not reporting last year—is 24,223. Thirty-seven States and 11 Territories report the public school income, which shows an increase for the year of \$1,232,656 ; but only 35 States and 9 Territories can show their school expenditures ; these aggregate \$73,080,089 ; Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Arizona, Washington, Wyoming, and Choctaw Nation not being estimated under the head of " total," in the table of annual expenditure.

The legal school age in the several States and Territories is : In