in the history of our public schools; a fact which furnishes the most cheering evidence of their high estimation and growing popularity.

The male departments of schools Nos. 1, 2 and 3 have been divided, by running partitions across them, making two separate rooms in each of these buildings. The alterations are believed to be decided improvements, although a different opinion is entertained by several members of the Board.

The object contemplated in making the division, is to secure better opportunities to the teachers, in prosecuting their labours in their respective apartments. The alteration was first made in No. 3, in the spring. Most of the Commissioners were convinced of the advantages gained by the change, directed the same alterations to be made in male schools Nos. 1 and 2. The smallest of these rooms, as now divided, will accommodate over one hundred boys.

The Commissioners regret to state, that they have been compelled to defer the building of a school house in the north western part of the city, as contemplated by them in the early part of the season, owing to the derangement of the city finances during the summer. A suitable lot for the purpose has been procured, and the Board expect to witness its erection within the ensuing year. The building has been deferred too long already. The necessity of prompt action in this matter, may be inferred from the fact, that no more scholars can be admitted into No. 1, corner of Green and Fayette streets, for want of room.

Two rooms belonging to the Firemen's Insurance Company, corner of South and Second streets, have been procured for the use of the High School. The Board being anxious to have this school located in a more conspicuous situation, had it removed to these rooms, September 1st. Although they are not entirely adapted to the accommodation of the school, yet they are centrally located, and will suit the purposes intended, until a building more particularly designed for such an institution, can be erected. The wisdom of the Mayor and City Council in recommending the establishment of this school, becomes more fully developed by daily experience. The unequivocal and happy influence it exerts by the increase of pupils in the primary schools is incalculable. That it will, under judicious management, continue to be a powerful auxiliary in sustaining the whole system, cannot be doubted. By a regulation of the Board, pupils cannot gain admission into the High School, without passing through one of the primary schools; thus, it secures to them a description of patronage unknown prior to its existence. The Board highly appreciate this branch of the school system as a most potent agent in dissipating any prejudice that may possibly exist against the schools.

Various opinions may have been entertained by those interested in the prosperity of public schools when the Mayor and Council recommended the establishment of the High School. The short period of its progress has fully demonstrated its utility, and has given the most satisfactory evidence of its importance to the vital interests of the public school system.

In the High School, are collected such boys as have made the greatest proficiency in the primary schools. At the examination held for this purpose in September, twenty-seven boys were selected to be placed in this school; making the whole number in attendance sixty-three. Here the pupils are required to pursue the study of the higher branches of literature. The best facilities are provided to impart a thorough English education. Reading, writing, English grammar, geography, mathematics, history, philosophy, &c., are particularly attended to. Classical literature is also taught; yet the pupils are not required to appropriate much of their time to this branch of study, until they have made extensive advancements in a respectable English education. The school is well conducted, and its pupils certainly enjoy extraordinary opportunities for improvement. The school will bear comparison with the very best seminaries of learning in our city. And as its reputation becomes more fully known as it progresses, it will continue to stimulate the boys in the primary schools to diligence in their studies; and will serve to secure the co-operation of parents with the teachers in the improvement of their scholars; because their promotion to the High School is considered a reward of merit.

The services of assistant teachers continue to give general satisfaction. The advantages gained by this system of instruction are many; it is beneficial, not only by giving the smaller and less advanced scholars better opportunities, but it also affords more time for the principals to devote to the instruction of farther advanced scholars, under their immediate supervision. The employment of assistants has contributed to the increase of scholars in all the schools.

Miss M. Godman has lately been appointed to take charge of the smaller boys in the male department of No. 5, as an assistant to Mr. Robinson. Several members of the Board entertain the opinion, that a female teacher is as competent to instruct boys in the rudiments of learning as a male teacher;—their services may be obtained at less cost. The appointment has been made for a limited time; so that, in case the plan should not succeed it may be abandoned, after giving it a trial, without injury to the school.

The experiment of last winter in opening a night school, appears to have been so favorably received and patronized, that the Board were induced to open the male departments of all the primary schools for the reception of night scholars on the first Monday evening in November. The principals are engaged in their respective schools; the assistants are also engaged in schools Nos. 2, 3 and 4. Upwards of 430 night scholars are in attendance; their deportment in school is exemplary, and their strict attention to their studies reflects credit on themselves as well as on their instructors. The order and quietness observed in the public night schools have pleased and gratified the Commissioners and other occasional visiters.

But few changes have been made amongst the teachers during the year. Mr. Gibson, formerly assistant in No. 3, has been appointed principal of No. 2. Mr. James Crapster was elected assistant to Mr. Brooks in November.