view I could present of the condition and prospects of our public schools. In the labor of the teachers, under the supervision of the committees of the several schools, a good degree of progress has been made. As heretofore the advance of the schools in their march of usefulness has not been universal. Some of them have worked themselves forward with a greater degree of success than others. Some have made more extended improvement than others. This irregular progress is neither more or less than may always be expected in the pursuits of so many schools, under the management of such a number of teachers representing the teaching element in various degrees of ability and experiences.

By a close and constant supervision alone can the working elements of the schools be maintained in their places and in their successful advancement towards the perfection which, while they may never reach, they may ever be in the progress of approximation. Perfection in anything does not seem to be allotted to the labors of humanity. The power of progress, however, is most certainly a part of its possession, and in its pursuit there is profit as well as pleasure. To keep our system up with the times requires constant effort, constant watchfulness, constant careful, intelligent supervision. In the slumbering of these agencies, or in their misapplication, there is the danger of defeat. In their efficient exercise there must be safety and success. Let the watchword of our system be "Progress!" Starting from the Board, and echoed by the City Council and the community, it may find its response in the schools, and although, in the fault of humanity they may never reach perfection, in their progress there will be prosperity.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. M'JILTON, *Treasurer.*

APPENDIX TO THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

OUR SYSTEM.

The Board is divided into committees, to which are committed the oversight of the schools. By the committees applicants are furnished with certificates of admission into the Primary and Grammar Schools. The number of certificates given by Commissioners is called for at every regular meeting of the Board. No pupil is allowed admission into a school without a certificate, accompanied by the certificate of a physician that he has been efficaciously vaccinated. The certificates of admission are returned to the office of the Board. The principals of schools report the number of pupils on their rolls, the number in attendance and their progress, with the number and attendance of all the teachers.

At the end of each school term quarterly reports are sent from the schools to the office of the Board. These reports contain the names of all the pupils that have entered the schools by the certificates of the Commissioners, with the conditions of admission, and the accounts of the various departments of the schools. I have these reports in bound volumes, representing the working of the schools during each year since 1849. I showed them, with other arrangements of our system, to the superintendent of public instruction of one of the large cities of our country, and he declared he had never witnessed the working of any system as perfect as ours, and that he believed his city would pay thousands of dollars if they could exhibit so complete a working of their schools for so many years. These reports in bound volumes are in my office, and can be seen at any time.