

of their fellow citizens were looking forward to the commencement of a system of public instruction, as the means of an efficient and economical education of their children, at length determined to proceed, with the means at their command. At a meeting held on the 21st of July, they resolved to establish four schools; one for each sex in the eastern, and the same number in the western section of the city; relying upon the countenance and support of the City Council to carry into execution that, which every member, of both Branches, almost three years ago, declared, by his vote, to be "*for the honor, the happiness, and the interest of the city.*"—At the same time the commissioners directed their President to advertise for rooms, and for two male and two female Instructors.

At a meeting of the Board on the 2d September, they made choice of Mr. Thompson Randolph, as instructor of a male, and Miss Harriet D. Randolph, of a female school, for the eastern part of the city; and Miss Margaret McConkey for a female school in the western. And at a meeting on the 9th of the same month, they also appointed Mr. Wm. H. Coffin instructor of a school in the western section:—the duties of all to commence as soon as suitable rooms could be provided. They were severally appointed for six months, and their salaries fixed—for the male teachers at the rate of four hundred dollars, and the female at two hundred dollars, per annum. The terms of engagement were thus limited for two reasons. In the first place, the time limited extending nearly to the close of the annual session of the City Council, would give to that body an opportunity of bringing the subject of public instruction fully under their consideration; and of either sustaining the doings of the Commissioners; extending their usefulness, by enlarging their means: or, of withdrawing their support, and suffering the hopes of the community to perish; as in their discretion, might best comport with their duty to their constituents, and their responsibilities to the age of light and improvement, in which they are called to act. On the other hand, it would enable the board to ascertain, by experience, the capacity of the individuals selected, to sustain with honour and usefulness the trust committed to them; and if found incompetent, or unworthy, to substitute others in their places by a new election, as preferable to direct removal.

When the board had thus determined to establish the schools, they still laboured under no small difficulties in obtaining rooms suited to their purpose. It must be obvious to the Council, that, to conduct a large school on the plan directed by the ordinance, it is important, not only to the comfort of the instructor, and the most beneficial and economical employment of his time and talents, but to the health and improvement of the pupils, that the room should be large, light, and well ventilated. This desideratum could not be obtained: they were therefore under the necessity of selecting the best which were offered. These were two rooms in a house in Bond street, the one for the male and the other for the female school—the rent at the rate of one hundred