

States of the American Union also presents considerable diversity, as is shown by the following table :—

State.	School Age.	State.	School Age.
Alabama	7-21	Mississippi	5-21
Arkansas	6-21	Missouri	5-21
California	5-17	Nebraska	5-21
Colorado	5-21	Nevada	6-18
Connecticut	4-16	New Hampshire	5-15
Delaware	5-21	New Jersey	5-18
Florida	6-21	New York	5-21
Georgia	6-18	North Carolina	6-21
Illinois	6-21	Ohio	6-21
Indiana	6-21	Oregon	4-20
Iowa	5-21	Pennsylvania	6-21
Kansas	5-21	Rhode Island	4-16
Kentucky	6-20	South Carolina	6-16
Louisiana	6-21	Tennessee	6-18
Maine	4-21	Texas	6-18
Maryland	5-20	Vermont	5-20
Massachusetts	5-15	Virginia	5-21
Michigan	5-20	West Virginia	6-21
Minnesota	5-21	Wisconsin	4-20

It will thus be seen that the school age begins at 4 years in five States, at 5 years in seventeen States, at 6 years in fifteen States, and at 7 years in only one State ; also that the school age ends at 21 in twenty-two States, at 20 in six States, at 18 in five States, at 17 in one State, at 16 in three States, and at 15 in two States, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

The statistics showing the age of the children who actually attend school is very meagre, but few of the State-school reports giving any information on the subject. It has been estimated that the vast majority of children leave school before the age of 15 years. The average age of pupils in the evening schools must, however, be much higher. In the rural districts the average age of pupils in the public schools must be higher than in the large cities, especially in the winter term. After a comparison of all available statistics, Francis Adams, in "Free School System of the United States," remarks, "There can be no doubt, however, that, as a general rule, children remain at school much later in America [United States] than in England." It is also stated by the same writer that "in England and Wales the percentage of children over 14, in schools receiving grants, in 1874, was 0.99. The age fixed by most compulsory-attendance laws is from 8 to 14 years.

No. 2.

MEMORANDUM of the INSPECTOR-GENERAL of SCHOOLS.

Hon. MINISTER of EDUCATION.

Education Department,
Wellington, 27th August, 1884.

IN answer to your questions in memorandum of 26th August, I submit the following information, derived from the "Report of the Commissioner of Education for the year 1881," which issued from the Government Printing Office at Washington in 1883 :—

Sources of income for educational purposes :—

New York State.—(a) A State tax of 1.14 mill. on \$1, or rather more than $\frac{1}{4}$ d. (1.0944 farthing) in the pound.

(b) Income from the "United State Deposit Fund" (a fund of more than \$4,000,000, of which I suppose the interest is about \$250,000).

(c) Income from the "Common School Fund" (a fund of \$3,276,602, of which I suppose the interest is about \$196,000).

The income from these three sources is \$3,400,000.

(d) Voluntary local taxation—\$7,400,000.

Massachusetts.—(a) Income of "State School Fund" (a fund of \$2,086,886, with an income of \$138,775).

(b) Local taxation.

The whole income is \$4,851,567, exclusive of income for sites, buildings, furniture, and appliances. The expenditure is \$5,776,542.

California.—(a) State poll-tax of \$2 on each voter.

(b) County tax not exceeding 50c. on \$100 ($\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.).

(c) District taxes not exceeding 100c. on \$100 (1 per cent.).

One tax—not exceeding 70c.—is for buildings; the other—not exceeding 30c.—is for other educational purposes.