

THE SCHOOLS FOR FREEDMEN.

The Boston, New York and Philadelphia Societies have each established schools in Washington, which are well attended, and do credit to their teachers and pupils, alike and equally. A critical visitor might suggest that, where the schools are near each other, some teachers and time might be spared, and a greater progress secured by grading them harmoniously—one taking all the primary, the other the more advanced scholars; and especially in the case of the Boston and Philadelphia Seminaries in I street. The Boston school is held in the basement or lecture-room of a church on the corner of Nineteenth and I streets, and has between 200 and 300 pupils, I should guess; and, as is customary with the Hubbites, a number of admirable teachers from New England. The Philadelphia school is but a few rods distant, in a building in the rear of No. 207 I street. It has over one hundred pupils and two teachers, one white and one colored Northern lady.

The New York school is in the Freedmen's Hospital building, corner of Fourteenth and M streets. About three hundred and fifty pupils attend this school. One department of it is a novelty in the United States, in fact, in the world; for I believe it is the first negro infant school ever established anywhere. It is under the charge of a colored lady who left California to do her part in educating her race; and, under the auspices of the National Freedmen's Relief Association, founded this interesting establishment. She is assisted—mark you! not superintended, but assisted by—a young white lady of fine culture and ability; who, in taking a subordinate position to this colored principal is conscious of no degradation, but gladly, voluntarily, and with alacrity, fulfils her duty to these young souls, without dreaming that she is occupying an outpost in that grand onward march of humanity whose next stage shall be distinguished by a total disregard to all accidental distinctions among men:

"When worth, not wealth, shall rule the day."

When capacity, not color, experience, not the epidermis, the sharpness of the faculty, not the sharpness of the nasal feature, shall determine position.

There are seven ladies and a Principal, Mr. Zelig, in the other departments. They have been carefully selected. This school was founded last year, by the Rev. B. W. Pond, of Vermont, (son of Professor Pond, of Bangor Theological Seminary) who determined to raise up teachers for the colored people among themselves, and carried a grammar-class, numbering nearly sixty, up to elementary algebra. The ease with which those pupils grappled with the problems of arithmetic was rather damaging to the popular theory advanced now-a-days by those who formerly denied that the blacks were human beings, and who, no longer able to assert that they cannot be taught to read, now state, with assurance unabated, that they cannot master those branches of instruction which require severe study. I advise all doubting Thomases or Miss Nancys who have imbibed this notion to pay a visit to Mr. Zelig's school.

The teachers of all the schools report that the pupils learn not with facility merely; but with wonderful rapidity. They are improving also in regularity of attendance. This is an encouraging fact.