



JOHN J. KENNEY,
School Commissioner.

JOHN J KENNEY, the eldest son of Patrick and Mary Kenney, was born in New York city, March 2nd, 1858. He removed with his family to Staten Island, when six weeks old, and has even since resided here. He was educated in the best public schools of the county, taking a high rank from the first, as a quick and intelligent student. After graduating, he began life as a teacher in the Madison avenue public school, in New Brighton, and taught for nearly three years. He then entered the law office of the late Tompkins Westervelt, county judge of Richmond county; was admitted to the bar at Brooklyn, Feb. 12th, 1880, after which he established an office in New Brighton, Staten Island, and has since enjoyed a lucrative practice.

In July 1882, he was elected clerk of the village of New Brighton, which position he filled with entire satisfaction to the board of trustees for nine years. He resigned July 25th, 1891, in order to give more attention to the practice of the law.

He was elected school commissioner of Richmond County in Nov. 1887, and administered the office with such entire satisfaction to the public that he was re-elected in 1890, receiving the largest majority of any candidate on the ticket.

He has been especially devoted and energetic in the performance of his duties as school commissioner. Under his supervision there has been a constant improvement in the government and management of schools. He inaugurated in this county, the system of uniform examination for teachers' licenses, which has resulted in producing a better class of teachers, and abolished the system by which licenses were issued as a favor and frequently with the merest pretense of examination. School buildings have received his attention to the extent of securing new buildings of modern design and great value. His vigorous work secured new buildings at Port Richmond, West Brighton, Graniteville, Garretsons, Giffords, New Springville and Richmond.

In spite of Mr. Kenney's popularity with all classes, he still remains unmarried.