

departments that were held by the superintendent. He would read from the report of the superintendent of Anne Arundel county that "in former times a teacher could be appointed by the influence of friends, and if incompetent would waste the school money, but this could not occur under the present system."

In reply to this, he held in his hand a petition which had been signed by the parents and guardians of 48 school districts of Anne Arundel, protesting against the appointment as a teacher of a young man who was well known to them, having grown up among them, and they knew his moral and intellectual attainments, and yet in the face of this protest this young man had been appointed.

His people wanted this system gotten rid of, and had the same right to come here and ask it of this Convention as Baltimore had to ask her separate system.

Mr. K. read from the report of the superintendent for Kent county that the opposition to the system was founded on prejudice, not on reason, &c.

Mr. Massey said it was false.

Mr. Kilbourn said the system was obnoxious to the whole people of Maryland, it had its origin in the same body which disfranchised the best citizens of the State, and was a part of the same scheme.

The reports from other counties were also read by Mr. K., who said that the great burden of them all was to raise more money and to build more schoolhouses, and alluded to the power vested in the school boards of each county to borrow money, and asked whether they were willing to give this power. It was the system he was speaking of, not the officers. He only attacked the system, and he asked the gentlemen from Baltimore city if they were willing to suffer the counties to run the risk of being impoverished, and appealed to the Convention to terminate the existence of this system forever.

Mr. McMaster rose to say that there was at least one county in the State of Maryland that was in favor of the present school system. In his county, (Worcester,) when this system was first introduced, it was unpopular, and this was doubtless owing somewhat to prejudice, but this