

laws, I have found to be not so good as I would like. The School Houses, with their furniture, in many cases, were wholly unfit for the purpose for which they were used. They were dilapidated, and in many cases out of the way, and inconvenient to be reached. I found two School Houses surrounded by *private* property, and fenced in by *private* fences, and they had the appearance of a *desert* surrounded by an *oasis*. I found the Teachers in too many cases unsuited to their profession; yet I found many honorable exceptions, and I give them praise for their proficiency in Teaching. Such changes will be made as the interest of the Schools require.

Under the old local laws, on the first Monday of May in each year, three Trustees were elected by the taxable inhabitants of the different School Districts, and they managed the Schools for one year. The poor condition of the School Houses, and the *apathy* of some of the Teachers, may be attributed to the fact that some of the Trustees under the old system seldom visited the *School room*, and left the Teacher to be the *sole* manager of the School affairs.

Parents must share the responsibility with the Trustees, for they have been negligent in visiting the School room, and until children find that their parents are interesting themselves in their behalf by visiting them at the School Houses, they will not study, and will not improve as they would do if the spirit of pride and emulation was fostered by such parental visits.

The funds supporting the Schools are derived from the County appropriation of seven thousand dollars, and the State appropriation of about thirty-three hundred dollars, which added to the \$8,000 (I write from memory,) derivable from the fifteen cent tax, will support our Schools during the whole year of 1866. January 1, 1867, the County appropriation of \$7,000 ceases, and it will be incumbent on the people to make other provisions for a County tax. I am pained to say, that in too many cases, the Schools have not attained the *efficiency* that the former appropriation would justify; but I am glad to say I believe them improving.

I believe that in general intelligence the people of this County will favorably compare with any County in the State; and I think there are few white adults who cannot read and write.

I think that with proper management of the Schools, the zeal of the inhabitants will increase, and they will show a willingness to bear the expense of erecting and furnishing School Houses. The Board of School Commissioners of this County have agreed to pay \$100 per quarter for 15 pupils; for the next 10 pupils \$1.50 each; and \$1.00 each for all pupils over 25. When the School numbers 60, the salary will reach \$600 per year. For Assistant Teachers the salary has not been arranged, but that must soon be done, as one School now numbers over the 60 pupils required by law. The Teacher has applied for an Assistant.

The Text Books are required to be *purchased* by the pupils, if the parents are able to supply them; or they can hire them at \$1.00 for the School Term. Should any be too poor to purchase or hire the Text Books, the gratuitous use is always allowed, that all pupils of the School District may have the opportunity to attend School