

Having visited all the Schools by the 16th November, ultimo, I found us having attended School during that Fall Term, 409 boys and 338 girls. The amount of salaries for said Fall Term, will amount to about \$2,300; the incidental expenses about \$200; repairs to School Houses about \$300, including three stoves furnished to the Schools No. 4, No. 15, and No. 25.

Books and Stationery have cost about \$700, making the expense of the whole Fall Term \$3,500. With our funds, the Schools of the County can be continued during the whole year of 1866.

In reference to changes in the School Law, I would suggest that the Presidents of the Boards of School Commissioners should be relieved from employing Teachers, and attending to the repairs of School Houses, &c. The whole duty of the President should be to examine the Teachers and the Schools, and see that everything is in good condition.

I would suggest that the Tax Commissioners of the Counties should be empowered to levy such an amount of money, on the School Districts, as the inhabitants shall apply for, to build School Houses, &c. I would further suggest that all children from seven to twelve years of age, should be required to go to School, or the failure to go be deemed a penal offence.

I am, very truly, yours,

SAM'L K. DASHIELL,

*President of the Board of School Commissioners
of Howard County, Md.*

KENT COUNTY.

In accordance with the wish expressed in your communication of December 1st, 1865, I have the pleasure to report that the New System of Public Schools was inaugurated in this County in September last. Under the old law, the Schools had, with very few exceptions, attained but a very slight degree of efficiency, many of them being taught by persons destitute of the necessary qualifications, either of scholarship or aptness to teach. It could not well have been otherwise, when it is understood that as a general rule, these Teachers received for their services only the sums levied by the County and appropriated by the State, seldom exceeding in amount two hundred and fifty dollars per annum.

In some cases this amount was increased by voluntary contributions, but very rarely so much as to make adequate compensation for a first-class Teacher. The School Houses were mainly old, dilapidated structures, wholly devoid of taste, or even of ordinary comfort. There was, I may say, really no supervision. It was the duty of the Trustees, it is true, to examine both Teachers and pupils, but a duty which the majority of them evidently thought "more honored in the breach than in the observance."