

Term mentioned, in consequence of the general prevalence of sickness.

Then again, the amount of funds which may be at the disposal of the Commissioners, is yet uncertain. The County Commissioners whose term of service has recently expired, failed to make the usual County levy for School purposes; but if their successors shall see proper to correct the mistake, of which I have strong hope, it would give, I think, a fund sufficient to continue all the Schools to the end of the scholastic year. If not, they cannot be kept open longer than the first of May.

The aggregate amount paid to the Teachers of twenty-five Schools, for the session closed November 15, 1865, was \$2,273.51.

For incidental expenses, including slight repairs, stoves and fuel, was \$751.64.

For old claims against former Trustees, \$1,232.44.

The number of pupils attending all the Schools, for the same Term, was—boys, 364; girls, 335; total, 699.

It should be remarked, in regard to the item of incidental expenses, that a large portion of the outlay was for stoves, of which a large number was indispensably necessary; this expenditure will not be so heavy again perhaps for several years.

The present system is, in my opinion, a good one, and is, I am confident, rapidly gaining friends in this County. It will work its own way to public favor. With Teachers selected with strict regard to their qualifications, and held to a rigid accountability for the faithful performance of their responsible duties, and, at the same time, so thoroughly imbued with professional pride and zeal, as I know many of them in this County to be, as to require no spur of supervision to be applied, except to develop their abilities, I have no fear but that its excellence will be acknowledged by all candid minds.

It has, of course, some defects; all new systems are liable to such. A little experience will serve to correct these, and then the State of Maryland will be blessed with as ample means to give to all her sons and daughters a thorough education as any of her sister States in this glorious Union.

The amendments which I would advise will be presented in a separate paper to the Committee on the Revision of the Law, appointed by the Commissioners' Convention.

### COLORED SCHOOLS.

By the liberality of a benevolent Association for the improvement of the colored people, seven Schools for the education of colored children have been organized in this County, of which five are still open.

The building in which the School near Millington was kept was destroyed by fire, most probably accidental; and one near Rees' Corner, was, without doubt, fired by incendiaries.