

The Teachers of these Schools have submitted to the customary examination, and obtained "Permits" to teach as in other cases. I have also visited the Schools and examined the pupils, and it affords me pleasure to state that their orderly deportment and close attention to their studies, are worthy of high praise, while the progress they have made from a condition of almost absolute ignorance, gives promise of complete success.

As the Text Books used in these Schools are entirely different from those used in the Schools for white children, and the form of Report for the latter is not adapted to the former, I did not require Reports from these Teachers, especially as they were pecuniarily independent of the State system of instruction, and were required, as I understood, to report to the Association in Baltimore.

I should estimate the aggregate attendance of pupils, in all these Schools, up to November 15th, 1865, at one hundred and fifty children.

Besides these, Night Schools are opened in the same houses, and in charge of the same Teachers, for the adult colored population. Of these my information is too slight to enable me to say anything definite.

Objection has been made to these Night Schools, on the ground that hired hands attending them lose so much rest as to unfit them for labor; but I think experience will show that the same condition of things has existed from time immemorial.

If the laborer did not attend School at night, he did engage in the "Coon and 'Possum hunt," and other pursuits yet more questionable, so as to unfit him for the labors of the following day, in a much greater degree than the pursuit of knowledge is likely to do.

I apprehend that these Schools for children could be made more efficient by being required to report to this office, and thus being brought into closer relation to the State system.

A tax upon dogs owned by colored people, and the regular fee for marriage license, which they should pay, and which they would readily pay, would add to their School Fund enough, probably, to relieve the Association of the support of their Teachers, and enable the State to educate their children.

Very respectfully, yours,

HOWARD MEEKS,

*Prest. Board School Comm'rs of Kent County.*