

While education is not, so frequently as could be desired, the topic of conversation or discussion in our community, the people generally appreciate the importance of affording their children facilities for intellectual culture. This is manifest from the number of Academies and Institutes within the limits of our County. In the Fourth School District, we have an admirably conducted school, known as the West River Institute, in highly flourishing condition, Rev. R. G. Chaney being the Proprietor and Principal. There are also two Academies within three or four miles of Owensville, one of which is under the efficient management of Rev. Dr. Nelson, former President of St. John's College, and the other is under the control of Rev. Mr. Nourse, an accomplished scholar. Both schools are in a prosperous condition. There are also several Academies in the Third School District, one at Annapolis, and one at Millersville. The number of children who attend the Public Schools number from twelve to fifteen hundred. From these data it may be justly inferred that the people are not indifferent to the cause of Education. Notwithstanding the encouraging aspect of the cause of education in our County, there are still some parents who seem to be totally indifferent about the education of their children. One of our Commissioners, who is well acquainted with the citizens of this County, suggests that a law should be passed requiring the people to send their children to school for a certain number of years. There is a class composed of poor people, who either hire out their children at an early age, or permit them to be occupied in fishing, crabbing, &c., and thus assist in supporting the family. As they cannot follow these occupations during the winter, parents ought to be required to send their children to school for at least six months in the year.

Rev. R. G. Chaney, Commissioner of the Fourth School District in his report concerning the workings of the new system, remarks—  
*“We learn with pleasure, that a new interest has already been awakened both in teachers and pupils under the new system. The Commissioner in visiting his Schools examines the pupils and notes the advancement made by them, in their several studies. This process alone, we learn, has had a very happy effect in inciting both teachers and pupils to renewed diligence and more earnest work.”*

In concluding this brief report, I cannot too highly commend the Commissioners associated with me; they have faithfully discharged their duties. They are all men of intelligence and energy, loving the work in which they are engaged; and I feel encouraged to hope that our joint labors will be accompanied with the happiest results to the rising generation, and that the new system, once thoroughly organized and in good working order, will illustrate its superior excellence and prove a blessing to the youth of our State.

Respectfully submitted,

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*of A. A. Co., Md.*