

attended during some part of the year, or nearly as many as the entire number of pupils attending and non-attending reported six years before. A comment might be made on this favorable aspect, but for the desire to make the communication as brief as possible. Other, though not as palpable, proofs of the general intelligence of the people could be advanced; such as the improvements progressing in all parts of the County; the increased employment of labor-saving machinery; the feeble hold which old prejudices have upon the citizens; the liberal support of two well conducted County papers; the large supply of varied literature which finds its way to the numerous post-offices throughout the County; the various societies organized in different sections, whose laudable objects are generally, if not always, the fruit of the excellent education of their originators; and the Schools of a higher order established in several districts, to supply the demand for culture which the Public School, under the old law, was unable to do.

The Board, at its first session, adopted, for each term, \$75 as the minimum salary for a School numbering 15 scholars, and \$165 as the maximum, with a sliding scale of \$2 for each pupil from 15 to 25; \$1.50 from 25 to 35, and \$1 from 35 to 90. Assistants receive \$50 per term as the minimum, with fifty cents for each additional pupil from 60 to 100.

At the last session of the Board, it was unanimously resolved to have the salaries graded to correspond with the certificates. For teachers holding First Class Certificates, the minimum salary, per term, will be as at present; for Second Class, \$65, and for those holding Permits, \$50. This resolution will take effect after the 31st of January, 1866. The books and stationery are furnished to the scholars, who are charged 75 cents per term for their use, unless exempted by the Commissioner.

The report for the fall term shows an attendance of 2,454 boys and 2,216 girls. Total, 4,670 scholars. There were 122 Teachers and Assistants employed. The aggregate amount paid for salaries was \$13,057.48, and for incidental expenses, including purchase of stores and repairs of houses, \$1,826.10.

The present income will keep the Schools in operation four terms, and unless an unusual increase of scholars attends, the Board will have a balance in its favor, which, as far as practicable, will be faithfully used in erecting School-Houses, and furnishing suitable furniture and apparatus.

With so many evidences of the good already accomplished in our County under the old system, and the encouraging prospects prominently before us as unavoidable consequences of the excellent improvements of the present law, affording, as it does, unexampled and unparalleled advantages to every youthful aspirant to literary honors, I cannot avoid entertaining a good opinion of it. It may need some modifications in its minor details, but even as it is, a liberal support of its provisions, combined with an enlightened and energetic management of its operations, will develop beneficial results which, at the present time, can be contemplated only in theory.