

fore conclude that, with a qualified and industrious man as President, and gentlemen zealous in the cause of universal education as Commissioners, the new system will accomplish all that its warmest friends could desire.

I think that a law should be passed requiring the Scriptures to be read in all of our Public Schools; this, with a law enabling us to build School-Houses and purchase School Furniture, are all the additions that seem to me to be immediately necessary.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. H. CHRIST,

*Prest. School Commissioners, Carroll Co.*

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### CECIL COUNTY.

The Public Schools of this County were established under a local law, passed at January Session, 1858, and were opened on the 1st day of January, 1859, from which time until the inauguration of the present general or State system, in July last, they were in successful operation, under the management and control of a Board of nine Commissioners, composed of one from each election district; each of whom exercised a comparatively independent supervision of the Schools in his own district, numbering from five or six to thirteen or fourteen, according to the size and population of the respective districts.

The teachers employed were those only who had passed a successful examination in Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Grammar and History of the United States, before a committee of the Board, as required by the law.

The School-Houses were found to be much better in some sections of the County than in others; but, in the aggregate, greatly below the real requirements of the system in number and quality. At the time of the introduction of the County system, there remained in the hands of the Orphans Court, the custodiary and disbursing agent of the Free School Fund, some eight thousand dollars of that fund. This money was distributed to the different districts, and appropriated to the erection of new houses, where most needed, and to the permanent improvement of such as were found to be properly located. Still the supply of houses was greatly below the number required, while the character of many of them was, to say the least, very inferior. We were consequently obliged to appropriate annually, a considerable part of our revenue to the erection, or improvement, and proper furnishing of School-Houses.

The funds by which the Schools thus established were supported, were, first, a County levy of twelve cents on the hundred dollars of the assessable property of the County, subject to deductions by insolvencies, &c., and producing about \$9,500, which, in the year 1864, was increased by supplement to twenty cents on the \$100, producing about \$16,000.