

another year, and a wider range of observation prove the value of the system of School supervision."

Pennsylvania, 1864.—"This energizing agency is becoming more and more efficient, and the labours and influence of the Superintendents more and more appreciated."

1865.—"The wisdom of the plan of supervision is abundantly indicated by results. Teachers are better educated, Schools better taught and the public mind better informed on the subject of education, and the whole common School system made almost universally popular."

1866.—"County Superintendents were first elected in this State in 1854, and it is not claiming too much for the office to say that it has vitalized the whole system."

To it, more than to any other agency, or to all other agencies combined, we owe our educational progress during the last twelve years."

Pennsylvania pays for salaries of County Superintendents over \$60,000 annually, the average School year being less than 6 months, and thinks the money wisely appropriated.

I find the same testimony everywhere. Even young Kansas speaks: "The County Superintendent is the most important office in our School System." Guided by the experience of those who preceded Maryland in the work of State Education an active and most efficient system of supervision has been provided, and from the ability and zeal of the gentlemen whom it has been the good fortune of the State Board of Education to select, our complete success is only a question of time, if means be provided adequate to the work of building and furnishing school houses and paying the salaries of our 1500 teachers.

The detail of the system of supervision is this. Each County has been divided into School districts, averaging an area of 6 square miles. There are in all the Counties 1,400 Districts, the largest number 124 being in Washington County; the smallest, 21, in Calvert County. In each district a School House site has been or will be selected near the centre of population convenient of access by the County roads. Where no physical obstacles intervene such as streams, swamps, mountains, the school house is within easy walk, and not over 2½ miles from the most distant child.

For each School a visitor is selected from among the patrons who acts as the friend and adviser of the teacher and assists in procuring the articles needed for the comfort of the children. This visitor is also expected to aid by his influence to maintain discipline and secure parental co-operation.

Several School Districts united, (not more than 15 at present in any County,) constitute a Commissioner District, over which is a School Commissioner, who selects a teacher for each School from among the persons, who by examination