

have been found qualified, aids in the distribution of text books, visits the Schools, and attends to the repair and protection of School property. The Commissioner receives the term report of each teacher in his District, compares it with the School Register, adjusts and pays the salary with funds procured from the Treasurer. The Commissioners form a Board of Education for the County, and meet quarterly to audit teachers' accounts and provide means for their payment. At these meetings, all School business of general interest is discussed, and plans are adopted to advance in every practicable way, the interests of the Schools. This Board also hears and decides questions at issue between patrons and teachers, or between teachers and individual Commissioners.

The President of the School Board performs all the duties of a County Superintendent. He visits each School once a term and examines the children. He holds stated examinations of teachers and issues certificates to those who are qualified. He has the oversight of all School work, and as the By-Laws provide is the active head of the system within the limits of the County. He is the connecting link between the State Board of Education and the Schools. From the State Superintendent through the President of each County School Board, the decisions and plans of the State Board reach every Commissioner, every teacher, and every School in the State, securing uniformity, while leaving considerable discretion to each local officer by which to adapt general principles to the peculiar wants of his District.

The Schools of Maryland, thus have a three-fold supervision. 1st. By the President whose authority extends over all the Schools of the County. 2nd. By the District Commissioner, who takes care of the Schools within his District. 3d. By the visitor who is interested in the particular School committed to his oversight. We may add to this the State Superintendent, who visits annually each County, for conference with the Board of School Commissioners and inspects all the Schools within his reach.

School Commissioners are County officers, paid for their services as other County officers are. We thus have two Boards of County Commissioners, the one taking care of material interests, supervising Courts, Jails, Alms Houses, Roads, Bridges, &c., the other guarding the State's best treasure, the hearts and minds of her children, supervising Schools and their teachers.

THE COST OF SUPERVISING THE SCHOOLS has been the subject of frequent remark, and exaggerated ideas prevail which require some explanation. The annexed table shows the salary paid to each President, making in 21 Counties, an aggregate of \$20,000. This not only yields a direct return, but indirectly saves ten times the amount by increasing the efficiency of