

awake active teacher, and therefore Maryland has incorporated in her School Law this essential feature which has worked so well wherever fairly tried under liberal auspices. For further information on this subject I refer to the report of the Principal of the State Normal School.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

This is another agency for the improvement of teachers through which they seek to benefit one another by conference and the discussion of School questions chiefly relating to instruction and government. Papers are read on professional subjects and illustrations given of modes of teaching. The sessions sometimes take the form of an experience meeting and each member gives a narrative of his School work and School difficulties, through which many valuable suggestions are made and much practical information imparted. These Associations are being formed in all the Counties, following the example of Baltimore City and those Counties, in which they have existed for several years. Educated men and women and teachers of private Schools frequently attend and contribute their quota to the general fund of professional knowledge.

It is hoped that intelligent citizens of all professions and specially those who teach from the pulpit will aid and encourage these Associations for mental culture and thus contribute a little towards elevating the profession of the teacher and giving him that position, to which, by his important labors, he is eminently entitled.

The tendency of these re-unions is to create an *esprit du corps*, to stimulate teachers to greater efforts for self-culture, and to encourage them by practical evidence that they are not alone, but have the sympathy of many co-laborers in the same field, all working together to elevate the standard of popular intelligence and the capacity for virtuous living.

Out of the County organizations has grown the STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. This is composed of all the teachers engaged in the Public Schools of Maryland. The initiatory meeting of this association was held in Baltimore, December 28, 1865, under the auspices of a committee of the Professors of the City High Schools and Principals of the Grammar Schools, thus furnishing most gratifying evidence of the existence of a kind and fraternal feeling. The first regular meeting convened July 10, 1866, in the commodious Hall of the Western Female High School of Baltimore City. There was a large attendance from the City and Counties. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, permanent officers were elected, and all arrangements made for active work. I consider this State association as an important agency in elevating the teachers' profession, and giving a practical direction-