

wise and liberal legislation, this State Normal School. Its importance is paramount. At each successive visit to the School, whether alone or in company with State officials, School Commissioners, or strangers from other States, my conviction has been strengthened that the work done is real. There is no sham about it. Everything is practical, and based upon true philosophical principles of culture, moral, mental and physical. The School is even now an honor to Maryland. While I would encourage all agencies for higher education, such as County High Schools and State Colleges, yet I know that to make these prosper we must have a thorough system of Primary and Grammar Schools. These cannot be sustained unless we provide qualified teachers from the residents of each County; home teachers, who will remain at their posts. To secure these we have no permanent agency but the the State Normal School. By sustaining it a foundation will be laid deep and broad upon which a High School and College system will stand firmly and develop prosperously.

The practical working of the School, and what it needs to accomplish its noble mission are so fully set forth in the Report of Prof. Newell that further remark in this connection is unnecessary.

*Baltimore, December 31, 1866.*

REV. DR. VAN BOKKELEN,

*Sir:*

I have the honor to submit to you the FIRST ANNUAL REPORT of the Maryland State Normal School.

The school was opened on the 15th of January, in the building known as the Red Men's Hall, and continued in session till the 8th of June. At the opening, 11 students were present, all but one being from the City of Baltimore. At the close, 48 names were on the roll, of whom one-third came from the counties.

At the Commencement, which was held on the 8th of June in the New Assembly Rooms, in the presence of a large and highly respectable audience, 16 students graduated, 4 as Teachers of Grammar Schools, and 12 as Teachers of Primary Schools. In the unavoidable absence of the Governor, the diplomas were presented by the State Superintendent; and interesting and encouraging addresses were delivered by John H. B. Latrobe, Esq., and Hon. John M. Frazier, of the State Board of Education.

THE FALL SESSION commenced on the 15th of September, as required by law, with 48 students in attendance: of whom 15 had been at school the previous session. The number increased week by week till the close of the session, Dec. 20th, when there were 71 on the roll, and 65 in actual attendance.