

To make the effort a success, aid is needed from the State. Such aid is given in the sister States. A School Journal circulating in all portions of the State will cause school questions to be discussed in many households. The great and beneficent principles which underlie the whole system of popular education, will be better understood, and the law, through which the State is striving to discharge her duty to the children, be fully explained.

Resolutions upon this subject were passed by the association of Commissioners, as follows :

Resolved, That this association recognizes the importance of a State educational and Family Journal, and that the Presidents of the City and County Boards, be requested to ascertain before February 18, 1867, the number of subscribers which can be secured and forward the result to E. S. Zevely.

Resolved, that an application signed by the President and Secretary of the association, be presented to the General Assembly, for a subscription of fifty copies for each of the Counties, and the City of Baltimore, to be circulated by the City and County Boards.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

The State Board of Education has given much attention to this subject, but in the absence of a law by which funds for building purposes can be collected, the work of improving old and erecting new School houses has been very slow. At the late special session of the General Assembly, a bill was reported authorizing a County tax for erecting School houses, but it was left among the unfinished business. Either a law must be passed enabling Commissioners to build School houses, or the work will depend upon the uncertain impulses of private liberality.

During the year, 17 new houses have been erected, 206 repaired, and 68 furnished with good desks and seats, the money being taken from regular School revenues. To accomplish *this little*, the School session was limited in some of the counties to three terms, or to six months, the minimum period required by the law. This plan was recommended for those counties in which the school rooms were unfit for occupancy, and in which revenue could be procured in no other way. It seems to be a sound policy, for school work will be so much more efficient in comfortable and convenient buildings as to fully compensate in two years for all the loss of time, if it be six months.

The honor of the State, as well as the health, comfort and progress of the children demand a better class of School houses, well lighted, properly ventilated, neat and economical. To acquaint Commissioners with the style of such buildings, and enable them to build at the smallest cost, the State Board prepared five sets of plans for school houses accommo-