

dating from 40 to 120 children. These plans lithographed, and the specifications for building have been sent to each County, thus exhibiting to the people pictures of neat, cheap and commodious houses, and enabling Commissioners to have the work done at the lowest rates consistent with durability and convenience. Elevations and ground plans of the buildings will be found in the appendix.

The reports of the County Boards make a lamentable exhibit of the condition of School houses. The houses are a disgrace to the County and a gross outrage upon children. In some districts hired rooms are used. More than half the houses are in ordinary or bad condition, and many so dilapidated or inconveniently located as not to be worth repairing. Will the General Assembly disregard this fact, and again adjourn without devising plans for relief? Certainly not.

In a matter of such grave importance immediate action is required to secure the necessary funds. The money ought not to be solicited as a bounty to the State, but raised by a tax upon the property of the County to which the house will belong, because by its erection the value of all kinds of property will be enhanced.

This topic is so entirely practical, and commends itself so directly to the consideration of parents, who regard the health of their children, to citizens who know the importance of having school work well done, to every community which has a reasonable pride in its character and position, that not many years can pass before ample provision is made to meet existing wants.

Whatever is done must, in the main, be done by taxation. We cannot, nor is it right, to depend upon individual or neighborhood liberality. This may suffice for the erection of parochial and private school houses, but not for schools to be open to all the children, and governed by the local or general Public Law

It is pleasing to record instances of enlightened sentiment and public-spirited liberality on the part of citizens in providing school houses. In some of the counties they have united to build the house, taking a small appropriation from the public money and furnishing the balance by donation, or they have advanced the entire amount, waiting the enactment of a law by which the money can be collected and refunded. In one district we have the laudable example of a gentleman erecting a first class school house and presenting it to the Board of Commissioners for the use of the Public School.

While writing I have the gratifying intelligence from the School Commissioners of Prince George County, that George W. Riggs, Esq., of Washington City, has built a neat, substantial and commodious school house near Bladensburg, well