

*Office of the Commissioners of Public Schools, }  
Baltimore, Dec. 19th, 1866. }*

*To the Board of Education of the  
State of Maryland.*

*Gentlemen:* I have been requested to present to your Honorable Body a statement in relation to the Floating School of Baltimore, and to request you to incorporate it with the other Schools of the State in the system, as ordered by the law of the General Assembly.

The School was organized by the joint action of the Commissioners of Public Schools and the Board of Trade of the City of Baltimore. The action on the part of the Commissioners was authorized and directed by the Mayor and City Council. The object of the organization was the elevation of the profession of the sailor by the introduction of a system of instruction adapted to its peculiarities. It is believed that by such elevation of the profession and character of the sailor great advantages would be secured for our national and mercantile marine.

The School was established with the view of its erection into a State Institution. For the accomplishment of this purpose, an act of incorporation was prepared and presented to the Legislature of the State, in 1860. The act was referred to a Committee, but was never acted upon by the Legislature.

The design was to admit pupils from each City and County of the State, in proportions determined by the population of each. Connected with the Institution there was to have been a Boarding Department, with every provision necessary for its successful management. The pupils were to be admitted without charge for Board, and with that of one dollar per term for tuition, and the use of Books and Stationery.

The Floating School of Baltimore was the first of the kind that was established on ship-board, the ship being afloat upon the waves. Institutions for the training of boys for the profession of the sailor, were established in Europe, but they were located upon the land. Ships and boats were provided for practice upon the water.

Since the establishment of our Floating School, other cities of our country have followed the example, and there are other Schools of the kind in operation.

Before the war the School numbered seventy-four pupils. It was discontinued in 1863 in consequence of the withdrawal of a large number of the pupils, either to enter the army or to assist in the support of their families.

The case is respectfully submitted to your Honorable Body, in the hope that such measures may be adopted, as may be necessary for the resuscitation of the School and its future support.

Respectfully,

J. N. McJILTON.