

REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARDS OF SCHOOL
COMMISSIONERS.

These reports are given in full as presented to the State Board of Education, that the citizens of each county may know the views of their principal School officer, and that the Legislature may have practical knowledge of the working of the School system in all sections of the State. They relate the hindrances which in some localities check the progress of education, and the successful efforts made in other places for the benefit of the young.

A careful perusal of these reports will leave upon every mind a conviction that much earnest and intelligent work is being done, notwithstanding the many disadvantages and obstacles which interpose.

More might have been written concerning the dilapidated condition of School houses, the need of furniture and out-buildings, the importance of having School lots enclosed, but enough is said to satisfy the most skeptical that these important subjects demand attention and prompt remedy.

No persons in the State are more competent to speak of the Schools and their wants, than the gentlemen who discharge the important duties of County Superintendents, and are required to visit each School and test the qualifications of every teacher. If information of practical value be sought, it ought to be from those who are acquainted with the detail of the daily work of the Schools.

CONCLUSION.

Having thus presented the history of the work accomplished during the first year, of the Uniform System of Free Public Schools, I venture the liberty to appeal to the Honorable Senators and Delegates, to take these Schools in charge as the most important interest of the State. Let it be our honest pride that every child from the Alleghenies to the Atlantic has the opportunities of education longer and better than the children of any other State. Maryland can have in this important work a leading place, and be a light not only to her sisters of the South, but to those Northern States which have not yet embraced the true principles of Free Education. Already is her School Law sought by those who wish to perfect their own systems.

Amended from time to time, as experience may suggest, the law will become thoroughly adapted to our wants. While uniformity is maintained, there will continue to be such discretion vested in each County Board, as will enable it to make the system conform to local necessities. Undisturbed by political agitation, exercising a liberal policy with reference to all denominations, striving to select teachers suited