

REPORTS OF COUNTY PRESIDENTS.

ALLEGANY COUNTY.

Mount Savage, Allegany Co., Md.,
September 19th, 1866.

To the State Superintendent of
Public Instruction.

Sir :

Enclosed you will find "Report Tables," filed as nearly as we are able to fill them. These "Tables" so nearly cover the whole ground, that they leave little in the way of statistics to be added.

No mere statistics however, can give anything more than a partial view of any subject to which they relate. In this instance they may tell us, e. g., how many children went to School, but they do not tell us how many did not go. They may tell us the work done, but not the difficulties in the way of doing it. Absolutely, the work done might be little. Relatively, it might be much. Thus figures, however accurate, though it is said "they cannot lie," may still fail to tell all the truth. I therefore add a remark or two supplementary.

How the difficulties to be encountered in our work in this County, compare with those to be encountered in other Counties, I have no means of knowing, but certainly here they are not inconsiderable. As I have mentioned in a former report, we are greatly in want of School houses. Any one who knows anything of School work at all, knows how essential a proper School house is to anything like success. There is less need therefore, that I should say much upon this topic. I will only express my conviction, that our work has been very much depreciated by using such places for School houses, as we have been compelled to use. Not much progress can be made in study where it takes nearly all the time to keep warm. Nothing short of burning up some of our School houses could possibly warm them through some portions of our winters. It is true, fresh air is invigorating, but children must be comfortable, if they could study to advantage. Other places again, which we are obliged to use, go to the other extreme. From being basements or cellars, the whole or a portion under ground, it is impossible to ventilate them. In some Schools I have been made sick in ten minutes after