

children comfortable houses, and required parents under a penalty to send their children regularly for a specified time. The State that will first provide such legislation, will be fifty years in advance of any of its sister States.

To make our system more nearly perfect, for God does not prosper any thing without his love and mercy, would it not be well to require the reading of the Bible in our Schools mornings and evenings.

No system of education is perfect unless *the heart as well as the head is properly trained* and cultivated. We should also have some small work on Calisthenics for our Schools, not only for the improvement of the physical system, but also to give life and variety to the School room.

When we attend to the physical, the mental and the moral nature, then will we have a system beyond all price.

A sound mind in a sound body with a cultivated heart, are the necessities of the day.

In order to accomplish the above, I would suggest in addition to the reading of the Scriptures and a work on Calisthenics, that the State Board of Public Instruction should prepare for the Schools of Maryland a small Catechism, containing the great fundamental principles or beliefs common to all Christian Denominations.

Unless we have something of this kind, many of our teachers will fail to introduce sacred subjects, or place them before their pupils. But with a small book of this kind, the precepts of our Saviour would be placed before all the children of the State.

Before concluding this report, I would remark, that as my predecessor has placed before you most of the subjects of importance in his report, it is unnecessary for me to lay them again before you.

I would also state, that with a fund of \$12,000 less this year, than was at the disposal of the Board last year, we shall not be able to continue our Schools quite six months. I also herewith return thanks to the citizens of Allegany County for their kindness and hospitality extended to me wherever I have met them in the discharge of my official duties.

Very respectfully,

JAMES M. SHOBER,

*President of Board of School Commissioners,
Allegany County, Md.*

*Cumberland, Md.,
November 24th, 1866.*