

flagrant wrong against God and mankind, by permitting their political opinions to exercise a controlling influence upon their minds, when providing instructors for the rising generation. We never allow those questions to come in conflict with our duty, and we can truly affirm that we do not know the political sentiments of any one of our teachers. We require first of all in our teachers a good moral character; secondly, the needful intellectual culture, diligence in their vocation, and fidelity in the discharge of all their duties.

In regard to the pecuniary considerations which some persons urge against our system, we admit that this objection has some force; but after our schools are thoroughly organized and in good working order, the expenditures in our County will be considerably less than they are now. A large outlay was absolutely necessary to build new houses and to repair others and furnish them so as to make them comfortable. All our new houses have vestibules attached to them; these are provided with shelves and racks, where the pupils can deposit their baskets and hang their coats and shawls.

Rev. R. G. Chaney, Commissioner of the Fourth District, presents a very gratifying picture in the subjoined report of what has been accomplished in this part of the County.

West River Institute, Md.

Oct. 23d, 1866.

Rev. F. R. Anspach, D. D.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request we furnish you with a Report of our (Commissioner) District.

We reopened 12 Schools in September and are happy to state that they are all in successful operation, numbering from 15 to 50 pupils each. During the past Summer, we had 4 new Schools erected and several others repaired; the carpenters furnishing everything, the School Houses cost about \$650 each, being 18x20, 18x22, 20x24, 20x26 feet each. We have had 10 Schools furnished with new desks, seats, &c., (Mr. Soper's patent) thus making the School by far more comfortable and pleasant, both for teachers and pupils.

We are happy to state moreover, that we observe an increased interest in our Schools, both on the part of teachers and patrons—the new buildings—the comfortable neat and clean rooms, are commanding respect. In a single neighborhood, which we visited on a beautiful morning last May, we found 17 pupils in 2 old dilapidated School houses. We have now 2 new buildings with between 70 and 80 pupils registered, and the greater number of them are in daily attendance at School. One of the teachers informed me during our recent visit that his school-room was really not large enough! We believe that there will be an increased attendance generally