

throughout the district during the present year, although the scarcity of labor renders it necessary for a number of parents to retain their sons at home during the busy seasons; yet the patrons of our Schools and the people generally, are becoming more and more thoroughly convinced that the *new system* is far in advance of the old, and though not *yet perfect*, it is really doing a good work. We have now before us an application to reopen a School which we closed the last year for lack of patronage, and a request to place in it a *classical teacher*, with a salary of between \$500 and \$600—the patrons being willing to make up the deficiency by voluntary contributions. In conclusion, Doctor, allow me to say that we believe the Teachers in our District, the most of whom having had several years' experience in teaching, will compare favorably with those in any District in the County or State. They are diligent, prompt and faithful in the discharge of their daily labors, and we anticipate a year of unprecedented success.

Very respectfully submitted by

Yours Truly,

R. G. CHANEY,

Commissioner 4th District.

It will be seen from the foregoing that we have not been idle, and that as much has been accomplished as could be reasonably expected within a year. We built eight new houses, repaired twenty and newly furnished nineteen. A few new houses are still required, so that, in a brief period, we shall have provided the whole County with substantial and comfortable school-houses, and if unhappily the present system should be abolished or changed, the people will have these excellent structures as memorials of the system of popular education now in successful operation. We cannot believe that men of culture, who have the well-being of our State and country at heart, would abrogate or materially modify the present system, until it has been thoroughly tested. We are confident that in a few years its operations and results will have demonstrated its superior excellence. That there will be found persons who complain, must be expected; not only now, but always. There are some people so constituted, that they must grumble, whether they have or have not cause to do so. They would find fault with the plumage of an angel's wings, and are thrown into paroxysms of irritation by the moat that floats in the sunbeam. It is their nature to do so, and if so, let them grumble; we would not, if we could, deprive them of that exquisite pleasure. We will, however, do the people of our County the justice to state, that so far as our personal knowledge extends, very few men have found fault with the manner in which our schools are conducted.

As this report may come under the notice of teachers and