

kindness and courtesy, and from the public in our regular visitations a generous hospitality, which we gratefully acknowledge both personally and as an evidence of the favor with which the system, of which we are the humble representative, has been received.

Respectfully submitted,
R. C. MCGINN, *President.*

CALVERT COUNTY.

Prince Frederick, Calvert County, August, 1866.

TO REV. L. VAN BOKKELEN, LL. D.,
State Superintendent Public Instruction.

Sir:

I have the pleasure of presenting herewith my first Annual Report of the condition of the Schools under my charge, and the operations of the Board of School Commissioners of Calvert County, during the year ending July 31st, 1866; but before doing so, allow me to offer a brief historical sketch of the several School systems that have preceded our own, and the legislative efforts hitherto made for the advancement of the cause of the public education in our County. Such a review of the past, cannot be wholly unprofitable to those who, like ourselves, are entering on a new, and comparatively untried, educational era. It becomes us, as wise mariners, to take our bearings, that having learned our point of departure, we may be the better able to estimate our future progress; besides, a just regard for those who have preceded us, demands a recognition of labors, whose fruit we now enjoy; and I shall feel well rewarded for my toil amid the 'dusty records of the past' if my humble pen shall have rescued their names from the forgetfulness of the present generation.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF SCHOOLS IN CALVERT COUNTY, FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO 1865.

The annals of our schools naturally divide themselves into three periods, each characterized by its peculiar schools; the first being that of Free Schools, and extending from 1725 to 1778; the second, that of Academies, from 1778 to 1854; and the third period, that of Primary Schools, from 1854 to 1865.

FIRST PERIOD.

Though the wisdom of our forefathers prompted them to make early statutory provision for securing the blessings of