

but one house, the size and condition of which, justified it. In the remainder, it would have been a waste of space and money, as the houses were either too small to admit sufficient desks to accommodate the children attending, or too dilapidated to preserve the furniture from injury. The only course left us for the present, was to put the primitive furniture we found, in as good condition as possible; and this was done. Black-boards—those indispensable auxiliaries to intelligent teaching—are being supplied as rapidly as possible, to all the schools. In evidence of zeal in procuring illustrative apparatus, I would mention that Schools No. 3, first Commissioner District; No. 5, second Commissioner District, and No. 4, in the third Commissioner District, have furnished themselves, by voluntary subscription, with Pierce's Magnetic Globe. We hope to see other schools following this commendable example. It is the intention of the Board to furnish each school with a State map, and a set of outline maps as soon as they can be procured.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

The objectionable condition of our buildings has been a subject of frequent and earnest solicitude to the Board. With the utmost willingness to pursue your judicious advice "to give all possible attention, and secure all attainable means to building the Teacher's Workshop," we had reason to fear that the resources at our command were wholly inadequate for the purpose. To attempt it, in our circumstances, seemed but a repetition of the Egyptian task of 'making bricks without straw.' To invoke the aid of voluntary subscription from the people, or to look to that 'improved public taste,' so confidently predicted at our last State Convention of Commissioners, was equally hopeless. Alas! "since the Fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were:" in evidence of which, we could point to more than one unsightly structure which had cumbered the ground for years, and for aught we could see, would continue to do so, while wind and weather permitted. Though I ought, perhaps, to add in extenuation of the unmitigated ugliness of one of these so-called school houses, that it was not *born* such, but from a *barn*, 'grewed up,' topsy-like, to its present use. After a careful estimate of our means, we determined on repairing the old houses as fully as their condition and value justified, and erect two new houses, urgently needed. This was all we dare attempt, and more than we would have attempted, had we been assured of the failure of the County Commissioners to lend us the pecuniary aid we had a right to expect. Nevertheless, we have the gratification of knowing that something has been done towards placing the system on a firm footing. During the vacation, the old houses were, more or less,