

thoroughly repaired, and two new ones erected. These latter buildings are of the best materials and finish, and built in conformity to Plan No. 1, furnished by the State Board, except in some unimportant particulars; the end window was dispensed with, to obtain more black-board surface; one of the front doors to main room was omitted, and the teacher's platform removed to the rear end of same room. The size of main room is 24x24; of the vestibule 8x15. Before building, the Board advertised both in the City and our County for proposals. The lowest bid received for either house, was \$1,530, which was rejected in the hope that by employing the workmen, and purchasing the materials ourselves, some saving might be effected. Notwithstanding the utmost economy used, the expense was much larger than we anticipated; owing, not only to the high price of lumber, but to the fact that nothing was contributed, either in frame, hauling, or labor, towards lessening our expenditure. Everything, from the lot to the bellry had to be *purchased*. However, they are completed and furnished with improved desks, and the people may congratulate themselves on having procured, through the liberality of the State, two school houses, that for size and appearance, will bear a favorable comparison, with any others, of like plan, in Maryland. One of these houses is so located as to be accessible to the children of *three* adjoining Districts; thus relieving us of the cost of maintaining two additional schools, and in time, will more than compensate us for the expense incurred. The other new building supplies the place of a school house destroyed by fire. For the expenditure for buildings and repairs, I refer you to the Treasurer's Report.

EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.

On the 8th August, 1865, applicants for schools were notified to file with the Board, such testimonials of character, capacity and loyalty as they might possess. On the evidence thus afforded, permits were granted for 60 days, at the expiration of which the holders were required to appear for examination. The interval was employed in ascertaining, by visits to the schools, the practical ability of the teachers, and in preparing some suitable mode of conducting the examination. For this purpose a tolerably comprehensive series of questions on the elementary branches was compiled, sufficiently full and varied to permit of a different selection for each examinee. The examination was conducted in writing, and the record, after being carefully examined, filed with the Board. Sixty-six per cent. was the minimum standard required for qualification in either grade.

The first examination was held in October, 1865; the last, in July, '66; the majority in January. Omitting the rejected