

rightfully taxed with the recollection of rules and definitions, they will adopt a more intellectual system, one which seeks the symmetrical development of all the faculties, and by constant appeals to the perception and reason, *teaches the child to teach himself.*

With better *organization and modes of instruction* not only adopted, but *enforced* in all the schools with perfect *uniformity*, a uniformity not to be secured by similarity of *Text books* only, we may then, but not till then, realize the full benefits which the present system, *as such*, is designed to bestow.

It affords me pleasure to state, that the attendance on the schools, notwithstanding many were unorganized till near the close of September, has been larger during the past year than ever before. The total number of different pupils in 1861-2 (the highest recorded attendance hitherto) was 528; the average number of scholars, 344; whereas the number of different scholars was for last year, 690; the average number 466. There is every reason to believe, it will be much larger during the ensuing year.

TEXT BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

In reply to your Circular of December last, I remarked that the Board in determining the price at which books should be sold, used the margin allowed them by the publishers as liberally as possible, short of the retail price, and added, that our reason for doing so was not merely to cover the cost of stationery, but to anticipate to some extent the advance in price which, we have reason to expect, the publishers would make after the introduction of the books.

This expectation has proved correct, but by the course pursued, we are saved the necessity of making any material alteration in our prices, and thus fighting over again the *'Battle of the Books.'* Most of our schools have been fully supplied, and at the moderate average cost to each enrolled pupil of 83 cents for text books, and of 18 cents for stationery. For farther details on this head, I refer you to Treasurer's Report, and his statements annexed to his Account Current.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

This important auxiliary to our system has been in full and successful operation for some time; and as the *first* ever instituted in the county, deserves a passing notice. The Constitution adopted, was modeled after that of Baltimore County (a copy of which was kindly furnished us by the Secretary of the State Board) to which however some features were added of practical value. Beside the County Association, a Branch Association was organized in each Commissioner District, to be governed by a Vice President, and to hold its