

scholastic year for 1865-6 closed. On the 1st of September last, the school was reopened under a new organization, as set forth in the accompanying circular, in charge of an experienced and efficient principal, and is now in an improved condition, giving encouraging promise of future advancement in its character and influence as an institution of learning. The number of students now in attendance is thirty-eight to wit, eighteen boys and twenty girls, with a prospect of considerable increase so soon as the advantages the school now offers shall be better understood by our citizens; numbers of whom still pursue the unwise practice of sending their children away from home influences under the deceptive impression that they can only be properly educated in distant academies or boarding schools, where, too often, they form associations that are of no advantage to them in after life.

Under the present organization we have reserved the right to introduce into the school, free of charge, a certain number of deserving pupils from the public schools of the different districts of the county. The building has been recently repaired, repainted and much improved, and is now in excellent condition and admirably adapted to the purposes of such an institution. The grounds around are spacious and well enclosed. The school is completely furnished with good furniture and with globes, maps and charts for illustrating the various branches of study, and also with some philosophical and astronomical apparatus, and the nucleus of a school library, which we hope to have enlarged by contributions from individual collections.

CONTINUANCE OF LOCAL TAX.

2d. In reference to the second topic suggested in your circular No. 6, I may say that no steps have been taken in this County to secure the continuance of the local tax for the support of Public Schools and the improvement of school property.

In the judgment of our County Board and those with whom we advised, no action on our part could, under the provisions of the Constitution, be at present practically available. The suggestion of the circular No. 6, viz: that the popular assent contemplated by the proviso to Section 5th, of Article VIII, could be secured by an endorsement upon the ballots of the words "*For a School Tax*," at the then approaching election, did not seem, in our judgment, to meet the case. In the absence of any warrant for making such endorsements, emanating from some competent authority, we could not see that the Legislature would be authorized to regard ballots thus prepared and cast, as evidence of the popular will, especially when no provision is made for