

evidences of efficiency or the want of it in the teachers, conducting in person examinations of the classes and adding a word of encouragement and counsel, which, I am happy to say, has always been received with manifestations of pleasure and gratification by both teachers and scholars.

#### ADVANTAGES OF THE FEATURE OF THE SYSTEM.

This feature of the State system not only gives force and practical efficiency to all the others, but if the duties of the office are faithfully and judiciously performed, must result in fixing it firmly in the affections of the people—for the indications of gratitude and, I may say, delight on the part of the teachers, and especially the children, to find that some one sympathizes with them in their labors and studies, are too palpable to be misunderstood; and it requires no argument to determine the estimate which parents and guardians will place upon a system which awakens so lively an interest in the children, who are always eloquent and successful advocates in the cause that obtains their favor.

#### POPULARITY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN CECIL.

The Public Schools are *the Schools* of Cecil County. Private or select schools exist to such a limited extent as to furnish very meagre material for the special report called for on that subject; and if the present system is judiciously administered and sufficient means to sustain it are secured, the day is not far distant when they will compare favorably with those of our sister States, where systems of some kind have been in operation for twenty-five years and more.

#### STATE TAX FOR 1865.

The amount received by Cecil County from State tax for 1865, was \$14,484.

#### LOCAL TAXES FOR 1865 AND 1866.

The local tax for 1865 was but 12 cents in the \$100, and brought into our treasury but \$9590. The local tax for the present year was 20 cents in the \$100, and will bring to us some \$16,300. This increased receipt from the local tax will enable us to discharge the existing obligations which, with interest and bank discounts, have been a heavy drawback to us, and has induced the Board to venture the appropriation of the \$4,600 before named, to the erection of new houses. The continuance of this local tax through some constitutional legislation, is the present point of interest. This secured we shall have unquestioned success; without it, failure to a great extent must unavoidably follow.