

MODIFICATIONS OF THE LAW FORMERLY SUGGESTED.

The modifications of the law, suggested by the Association of School Commissioners at their meetings in August, 1865, and January, 1866, which were submitted to the Legislature at its last session, but failed to be carried out, I believe, for sufficient time to consider them, will, if yet adopted, to some extent, render the administration of the system more perfect.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE EXTENSION OF THE TIME OF SCHOOL TERMS.

I might here suggest a further modification, one I have heretofore suggested, and of the propriety of which I am still convinced, viz: the extension of the time of the respective school terms and the reduction of the time of the Summer vacation. If those counties which, like Cecil, are only able to keep their schools open three terms in the year, could have the terms so lengthened that the third, a Spring term, would run up to or beyond the 1st of May, there would be less occasion for the complaints we now constantly hear from parents and guardians, because of the limited time devoted to teaching. If a fourth term can be sustained by other counties, it might readily be extended to the latter part of July, leaving the whole month of August for the summer vacation—or if a longer vacation be desirable, the fourth or Summer term, which few counties will be able to sustain, might, without injury to the system, be made the shortest term in the year.

In conclusion, allow me, my dear sir, to acknowledge the valuable counsel and encouraging support I have derived from your correspondence during the year, and to express the hope that the system of public education, inaugurated under your administration in Maryland, may long continue to receive the support of the people and long remain under your effective and searching superintendence.

Very respectfully yours,

F. A. ELLIS,

*President of the Board of School Com. of Cecil Co.*

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DORCHESTER COUNTY.

THE PRESIDENCY.

In February last, our late worthy and efficient President, Dr. Edward F. Smithers, died from disease contracted by exposure in the performance of his official duties. In reconstructing the educational edifice, he found an immense field of labor—old notions and systems had to be abandoned—pre-