

judices had to be met and healed, and proper plans for the superstructure had to be devised. Had his life been spared, to-day we should have seen more than the firm foundation stone.

#### SCHOOL HOUSES.

The Report of last year notes the fact that our Board had resolved to build ten new school houses the present year, out of the County school levies for 1864 and 1865. It is regretted that the Board have been unable to build a single house.

Although the levy of 1864, was due six months before the new system went into operation, the old Board of School Commissioners had collected but \$192, and now we can report but \$1,283,96, collected by our Board, leaving \$2,524,06 yet uncollected. We can collect only through the County Treasurer, to whom the collectors pay all County funds. We have so urged the payment of this money as well as the levy of 1865, that the County Treasurer has instituted, sent and obtained judgment for the levy of 1864.

It would be useless to commence the building of ten houses with such an amount, and until it and the levy of 1865 are collected we must "learn to labor and to wait."

To be without school houses, needed as they are in this County, and to continue without them, at the will of our tardy collectors, is equivalent to an effectual clog to the system.

At the suggestion of the State Superintendent, the Board, at its last meeting, adopted a new policy for building school houses, i. e., when the proper location, title and plan shall have been secured, three hundred dollars will be paid at the completion of the house, and a mortgage of the property, for the balance of the cost given to the school district or parties building said house, payable when funds shall accrue to meet these liabilities.

We have made diligent search and inquiry, for the titles to our school houses and sites. Our information is so meagre we cannot vouch for the authenticity of our statistics. They are as accurate as they will ever be made. No one can say *when* or *by whom* deeds were given. Without these facts it would have been useless to ask the Clerk of the County to make a search. There prevails a general assent that the houses are public property, nearly all have been built by contributions and afterwards supported by the County School Board. The lots are held on still more obscure tenure. Many of the houses have been built upon church lots; these can never be deeded to the Board of School Commissioners. Others have been built upon sites, given verbally to those contributors who built the houses. I doubt, if there be over