

never to any great extent avail themselves of the Public Schools, not only very cheerfully give their money to sustain them, but appear most deeply interested in their success. This fact clearly evinces the vitality of the present school system.

Most respectfully,

Yours. &c.,

T. S. C. SMITH.

Bel Air, Nov. 22, 1866.

HOWARD COUNTY.

Ellicotts Mills, Md,

October 15th, 1866.

REV. L. VAN BOKKELEN,

State Superintendent Public Instruction,

Dear Sir:

The undersigned, President of the Board of School Commissioners of Howard County, in obedience to the School law, has the honor to make the following

REPORT.

In August, 1865, as soon as practicable after my appointment, I called together my associates, Dr. Joel Hopkins and David Burdett, Esqs., and organized our Board by appointing Mr. Marshal McCauley, secretary. In obedience to your suggestion, the Schools were committed to teachers by "permits" until January 1st, 1866, at which time all the teachers were summoned for examination; and to them certificates were granted in accordance with the acquirements of the applicants, and the prospect of usefulness in the cause of education. On the first of September, 1865, I found twenty-four schools had been in operation in the County, under the old system; one of which had a department for boys and girls. An extra appropriation of \$300 had been added to the fund for that school for the support of the girls department. This school has been divided by our Board into two separate schools. The schools were divided among the members of the Board as follows: The 1st Election District, comprising seven schools, was assigned to me as first Commissioner's District; the 2d and 5th Election Districts, comprising ten schools, were assigned to Dr. Joel Hopkins as second Commissioner's District; and the 3d and 4th Election Districts, comprising eight schools, were assigned to David Burdett, Esq., as third Commissioner's District.

Since our organization in August, 1865, two new schools have been added in Mr Burdett's district, one in the long corner, as named many years since, and one near the 19th