

of teachers for a new supply of books of every kind, and no more will the shelves of our store-keepers groan under the loads of discarded Text-Books. Happily, we may add, no longer will our children be compelled to turn back with the advent of every new pedagogue to learn from a new book what they had a dozen times before almost learned from others. Oh Sisyphus! oh Tantalus! how light and fanciful were your labors to the realities borne by the boys and girls of Kent!

The popular appreciation of the great work of educating the children of our County is, I fear, much too low. This is indicated by the restiveness under a rate of taxation far inadequate to the necessities of the case, and by the forlorn and dismal aspect of most of the houses in which the important work is to be done.

Yet there are hopeful signs of a better feeling. Wherever I have gone in my visits to the schools, I have met with kindness and a generous hospitality; and in the absence of any levy in advance for my compensation, this was to me, and to the system, a very important consideration; and for it I desire to tender to all these friends my sincere and hearty thanks. May they in after years see this "bread cast upon the waters" return in blessings an hundred fold.

Few cases of disorder in the schools, or questions relative to discipline, have come before the Commissioners.

The schools are all opened by reading a portion of the sacred Scriptures, and in some few the Lord's Prayer is repeated audibly by teacher and pupils in addition to the Scripture lesson.

I am inclined to think that a healthy moral tone and a high sense of honor pervade our schools generally; the teachers treating their pupils as embryo ladies and gentlemen, and inculcating "respectful and modest demeanors, simplicity, purity and truthfulness in thought and speech.

The want of regular attendance is severely felt as an evil of great magnitude; the remedy for it, if any, is not in the hands of School Boards or their employees. It is in the hearts of parents.

Nothing has been done in regard to the establishment of a High School, having no suitable buildings nor funds applicable to the erection of such.

HOWARD MEEKS,
President Board.