

QUEEN ANNE COUNTY.

Centreville, Nov. 12, 1866.

REV. L. VAN BOKKELLEN.

Sir :

All the statistical information you require, may be found in the blank forms furnished by your Board, now filled up and in your possession. Nothing has been done toward establishing a High School, except publishing in our weekly County papers, the law upon the subject, for the information of the people. We have asked for proposals from the different districts of the County, but so far no response has been made to our request. We have kept our Schools in operation during the entire School year, except in one or two cases, when they were temporarily closed for want of scholars ; and have closed up the financial affairs of the Board, after paying two or three small debts left by the old Board, entirely out of debt and with a surplus of a few dollars in the hands of our Treasurer. We therefore have a fair start for the current year. We have however, been entirely unable to improve the condition of our school houses. They are as we found them, except that in a few instances, some slight but absolutely necessary repairs, costing but little, have been made. Whenever I have had an opportunity I have urged upon the people to whom I have had access in my official visits to the schools and at other times, the great importance of comfortable houses for the use of the children of the County, and of our utter inability to furnish them for want of funds, but all my appeals have been ineffective, and nothing has been done. If we could get one District only to build a suitable house and furnish it with such furniture as a school house needs, I am almost sure that others would soon follow the good example. Every body acknowledges that we need good houses, but nobody seems disposed to do anything to enable us to furnish them. I think that the greatest obstacle in our way in this and in other cases is the want of concern in the minds of parents about the education of their children. I form this opinion from the very bad attendance of scholars in schools. Though, except in the sickly season, the number of scholars enrolled is sufficient to make a good school, the number in daily attendance will hardly average fifty per cent. of those upon the Register. We have strong advocates of the new system among the most intelligent men among the County, and it has its enemies too. I find among its strongest friends, the parents of those pupils, who have been kept regularly at school and who have seen its advantages in the same advancement of their children, and its enemies are those whose children do