

vicious people. In the light of an investment; then, it is the best and wisest that the State can make, to incur the necessary expense to educate her people.

Respectfully submitted,  
HENRY A. WHITE,  
*President of the Board.*

### ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

REV. DR. VAN BOKKELEN,

*State Superintendent Public Instruction.*

You have received my statistical report. Its figures not only show the condition and doings of the new system in St. Mary's County, but demonstrate its marked and steady progress. They prove, I think, clearly, its fitness for its important work, at least so far as concerns this County. I now send you, at your request, some of the results of my observation of its working, and such suggestions as, I think, may promote its interests.

I shall not discuss any question either abstract or practical, but confine myself to a simple history of the operations of the system. I cannot think it pertinent in a report which I think should be strictly historical, to argue the necessity of the object of the system, and of the conditions necessary to accomplish it.

The necessity of popular education has been thoroughly discussed, and argument concluded. The new system is the organized result of discussion, experience and purpose. The people of the State have decided that the children of the State ought to be, must, and shall be educated. To do this work, they have framed a system of agencies, and the simple question now is, does it answer its purpose? Results of its operation is the true answer to this question. As I remarked above, my tabular exhibits show that in St. Mary's the new system works well—answers its purpose fully. The people of St. Mary's are in favor of popular education. At first, owing to misapprehension of the designs of the new system—naturally growing out of the circumstances of its origin—there was very general dissatisfaction, which was not lessened by unavoidable delay in organizing our Board and opening the schools. So soon, however, as the true and only object of the system became apparent, the characteristic candor of the people determined that it should have a fair trial. Accordingly, throughout the County, we were encouraged by gentlemen whose influence was a tower of strength, and auspicious of our success. I must avail myself of this occasion to thank those gentlemen for their support;