

cated many who have attained eminence in the several pursuits of life. It is justly the pride of the people of this whole section, and whether it may ever connect more intimately with our new system, time alone will tell. Some of our best teachers we get from it.

And now, Doctor, you have my Report. I have labored hard, for my field is a laborious one. My colleagues have done their duty and I bear record to their interest and zeal. God knows my heart that it is unselfishly in this work, and I know that my imperfect efforts have not been equal to my interest in the cause. My intercourse with you has been pleasant, and I know that you, too, have labored with a zeal worthy of this great work.

JAMES BUNTING,
- *President of the Board.*

TALBOT COUNTY.

REV. L. VAN BOKKELEN,

State Superintendent

of Public Instruction,

Sir:

I have the honor to report to you the condition of the Public Schools of Talbot County.

Continued illness in the autumn of 1865 prevented me from rendering a report of the Fall term of that year, and responding to certain queries contained in your circular letter of December last. I avail myself of this opportunity to reply, in order that the record of the schools of this County may be complete.

- I. "The condition of the schools under the old local law;
"the school houses, teachers, and mode of supervising."

The people of Talbot County, from a very early period enjoyed the advantages of neighborhood and parochial schools, and though these were not public schools, in the sense of being supported by public bounty, private beneficence of the wealthy threw them open to their less favored neighbors and tenants. It was the custom of the gentry of a neighborhood to erect houses and employ teachers for the education of their own children, and other pupils were admitted upon the payment of a nominal tuition fee, or, in necessitous cases, entirely free of all charge. These private schools were formed throughout the County, and were maintained for a long time, diffusing the benefits, and fostering an appreciation of edu-