

charge, for every hundred dollars appropriated by the State. In the year 1800, a lot of ground was purchased of the Rev. Thomas Jackson, by the Board of Trustees, which Board then consisted of Messrs. John Edmondson, Nicholas Hammond, Samuel Chamberlaine, Thomas James Ballitt, William Hayward, Ennals Martin, Stephen Theodore Johnson, Perry Benson, John Roberts, Owen Kennard, John Coats and Hugh Sherwood. The building was erected, so far as can be learned, by the private beneficence of certain gentlemen, there being no evidence that any State or County appropriation was made for the purpose, but there is sufficient evidence that a subscription paper was in circulation in the year 1806. The school was in the occupancy of the Academy Building in 1812, about which time it was erected. It was then under the superintendence of Mr. John Boyle, as teacher, who was followed by a succession of earnest and able men, who gave to the Academy a high standing, which it maintained until the year 1866, when the Board of Trustees transferred the building under a lease, at a nominal sum, to the Board of School Commissioners for the use of a High School, to which I shall refer in this report. At this school many of our most useful citizens were educated, and it has fostered, or kept alive among us a love and appreciation of liberal studies. If the limits of this report would permit, I should be pleased to give an account of some of the most successful of the teachers, and of the most distinguished of the scholars.

In the month of November, 1832, a school was organized by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Spencer, in the parish of St. Michael's upon the farm "Solitude," the residence of the rector. Dr. Spencer was assisted in this school by his brother, Mr. Matthew Spencer, who was subsequently the Principal of the Easton Academy, of which he had charge when he died, in the year 1865. This school received no aid from the State. It was very flourishing for a number of years and was distinguished particularly for its thorough tuition in the classics, in which branch of learning Dr. Spencer was especially proficient. He was a scholar of the medieval type. He was a devoted churchman and recluse from society, not from any unsocial or misanthropical feelings, but because solitude afforded opportunity for study. With highly cultivated tastes, he was simple, almost to asceticism, in his habits, for he was thus from small means enabled to gratify his passion for books. His knowledge of the languages was profound. He paid but little attention to the natural sciences, doubtless having imbibed a prejudice against them in early life from the character of the French Philosophers of the past century. He excelled as a teacher of the ancient languages, and was probably more thorough in his training of boys in these studies than any man in the State. This