

are sharpened by attrition, but we find ourselves equal to the kindly contests with our generous soil and halcyon skies. We have not much high scholarship, nor much gross ignorance, at least among the white population. A number of well educated people scattered throughout the County, and not congregated in the towns, has served to give our people a contempt of ignorance at least, if not a love of learning.

Probably not more than five per centum of our white population are entirely illiterate; but a much larger percentage are so little instructed that their writing is far from being a *useful* art to them, their reading is performed with such difficulty that it is not indulged in as a pleasure, and their arithmetic is confined to the simplest combinations of numbers. Of our negroes, I may say they are generally extremely ignorant, but the schools which have lately been established for their instruction, by the charity of benevolent societies abroad, are doing good service, and diminishing, it may be only grain by grain, this mountain of ignorance. I should not refrain from stating briefly in this connection that our people are becoming not simply reconciled to the establishment of these schools, but really desirous that they be maintained and be rendered efficient, though I see no disposition to give any pecuniary support, or active encouragement. I have thought it not proper, considering the sensitiveness of the public mind, and that I was under no official obligation, to give any attention to these schools for colored children; but the time will speedily come when public sentiment will not only permit but will demand that some provision be made for the education of this degraded class, which comprises one-third of our whole population. Public safety, and public economy, if not the higher and stronger motive of public justice will require it at our hands.

IV. "Whether there is evidence of zeal in sustaining Public Schools, and a willingness to erect and furnish school houses."

It cannot be said truthfully that there is any *zeal* in sustaining Public Schools, yet it may be said that if an attempt were made to destroy them by any party or set of men, so much attached are our people to their schools, that there would no longer be the apathy upon the subject of education which now exists. We pay our taxes for the support of schools willingly; there is unanimity of sentiment that they must be sustained, that competent teachers must be employed, and adequate salaries paid; that commodious houses with the proper appliances should be built and kept in order; but there are few who will give their personal attention to these matters, and consequently, with ample means, and the very best intentions, small care has been taken to secure capable persons to take charge of the schools,