

had much to learn, and the obscurest had something to teach. Our Institute continued in session four days, and but for the intense heat would have continued longer, as the interest was unabated.

Upon the adjournment of the Institute, a Teachers' Association was formed, which, according to its constitution, must meet once each term. Already there have been two meetings, with full attendance, the proceedings of one of which, with reference to sustaining our school law, and suggesting amendments, I had the honor to present to the Association of School Commissioners, at its last meeting.

Of the results of these Institutes and Associations, sufficient time has elapsed to enable me to speak confidently. The teachers who attended them entered upon their duties at the beginning of the present school year with renewed zeal; the indifferent were stimulated, and the weak and timid were encouraged. The good teacher felt the spur of ambition to distinguish himself among his fellows, while in the whole body was engendered that *esprit de corps*, which is so necessary in every profession. Our teachers are beginning to take pride in that prominence which excellence in any calling, bestows. Many of the suggestions and plans laid before the Association, are now acted upon in the schools in different parts of the County, and with great success. Teachers themselves say they are now better teachers than they were before, and I can substantiate what they declare. Unused black-boards are turned to account; outline maps are asked for; books to prosecute higher branches of study are demanded; school journals subscribed to, and our teachers are acquiring the first of all qualifications, a desire to know more, that they may teach better.

I must unite my voice with that of almost every school officer and teacher in the land, in lamenting that evil, which, of all others, most impairs the usefulness of our common schools, the irregularity of the attendance. It has become so great as almost to threaten the existence of a Public School system. The teachers and many interested in the subject of education, are demanding that legislative action should be had, compelling the parent to send his child to school, at least a part of the year. This would not be in accordance with the spirit of our institutions, and would hardly be tolerated by our people. No one is willing to be compelled to do right. The other remedies for this evil are so slow of action that the teacher who is harrassed by the loss of discipline in his school, the complaints of parents of the small progress of their children, the increase of his labor, by the multiplication of his classes, is ready to abandon his school in despair. If he must wait for the community to be educated to such a point of appreciation of education that the parents will not keep their children at home to save a