

few dollars by their labor, or if he must continue to struggle to make his school, which more than one-half the time is deserted, so attractive that the children will not stay away, he fears that old age will find him still with a beggarly account of empty benches. Yet these are the only remedies that are feasible. The people do not know the extent of this evil. In this County, I believe I am safe in saying, not one-half the children, within the legal ages, attend one-half of any one term.

Another evil impedes us which is probably peculiar to this County, the multiplication of schools to such an extent that they cannot all be filled with a proper number of pupils to give interest to either children or teacher. This is owing to three circumstances. 1st, to the geographical formation of the County, previously referred to—our territory being cut up into narrow necks of land by creeks or arms of the bay. We are compelled to have schools in these neighborhoods, or deprive a large number of our people of their privileges; yet the population is often too small to give a sufficient number of children to contribute an efficient school. 2nd, to the existence of large landed estates, which prevents a great density of population, and enables and requires the proprietors to employ private tutors, or to send their children abroad, as Public Schools cannot be established for want of a proper number of children. That section of the County which was earliest subdivided into small farms has now, not only the most numerous, but the best attended and best taught schools; and there, too, we find the greatest interest in the cause of education, the teacher most esteemed, and the greatest amount of general intelligence. 3rd, to the existence in our midst of a large body of colored people, who are by law excluded from the schools. No one would think of advocating the admission of the children of these people into the schools for the whites; but as they make up fully two-fifths of our whole population, and much more than that proportion of the laborers who furnish the largest part of the children, our schools thereby fall short in their number of pupils one-third, if not one-half of what they would be, were our population homogeneous. This is an evil which time only can remedy. The continued division of landed estates and the gradual disappearance of the black race from among us, will ultimately give us full and effective schools.

The President of this Board has made it his duty to visit all the schools of the County, at least four times, except one so remote that he was not able to reach it so often. In these visits he has been thrown into contact, not only with the teachers and children, but with the parents. Upon the last he has endeavored to impress the necessity of sending their children regularly to school, and the duty of aiding the teacher, by upholding his authority and by words of en-