

encouragement. He has been accustomed to observe the order and discipline maintained by the teachers, and their method of instruction; to give such suggestions to them as he thought would be conducive to the excellence of the schools, and to afford them that sympathy in their ill requited labors which they so rarely receive. He has examined the children, at each visit, in their studies, inspected their books, and endeavored, in short addresses, to inspire them with an ambition to excel in their studies, and with a desire to practice those virtues which are the basis of good character. A less pleasant duty has been to listen to complaints made of teachers, to examine into their foundation, and administer the proper corrective, when necessary. In all these visits he has met with hospitality and courtesy from those, too, upon whom he had not even the claims of acquaintance; and though the labors have been arduous, they have always been cheered by the cordial greeting of the teachers, the bright smile of the children, and the warm reception of the parents into their homes when the day's work was over.

Upon a survey of the operations of the year, with whatever shortcomings, whether from incapacity within ourselves or from opposition without, it is evident that much has been accomplished. The conscientious worker may see where he has failed, and where he could have done better, but he is not blind to what has been done. Although this may not be appreciable by those not engaged actively in school duties, it being of such a nature that it cannot be measured by sensible standards, yet it is not the less real. A system of schools of many and novel details has been made to support another which was commended by long familiarity. Inaugurated amidst a great social revolution, and encountering at the very beginning, not simply the passive opposition of that wise conservatism, which induces us, to retain what is old though it may not be the best, rather than hastily to adopt what is new, though it may be better, but also that active opposition of highly wrought prejudice which classes all measures of a hostile party, however beneficent, in the same category with those which are most obnoxious, this system has been placed in successful operation. Temperateness, impartiality and conciliation have marked the administration of this law, and these have been met, on the part of our fellow citizens, with indulgence when errors have been committed, encouragement when difficulties have been encountered, and commendation more frequently than it was justly due. The standard of qualification of teachers applying for schools, has been raised; those already employed have been taught to be more efficient; methods of instruction have been improved; the interests of parents and children has been awakened; the school funds have been economized; school accounts are orderly and accurately kept; school