

houses rendered more comfortable and attractive, and, in short, the whole school machinery made to work smoothly, evenly and profitably. And though this has not been done without much labor, many annoyances, and not a little solicitude, yet it has brought its reward to those who have been instrumental in its accomplishment. The consciousness of having done some good with no selfish end, the knowledge that whatever betide, they have laid the foundations, whoever may build, of a system of Free Public Schools in Talbot County, which will ever remain sources of unmixed satisfaction.

Very respectfully,  
 SAMUEL A. HARRISON,  
*President of the Board.*

*Easton, December 26th, 1866.*

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WASHINGTON COUNTY.

REV. L. VAN BOKKELEN, LL. D.,  
*State Superintendent of Public Instruction.*

*Sir:*

In accordance with the provisions of Sect. 5., By-Laws, and your circular C., I have the honor to present the following report, as President of the Board of School Commissioners for Washington County.

The statistics furnished in Tables, A, B, C, and D, are as full as they can be made. They lack that definite and positive value which would have attached to them, had the schools continued four terms, and the terms been fully kept in every school. As I advised you in my former report, a number of the schools did not open until after the 4th of September, 1865, and some for prudential reasons, or because of necessity, did not make full terms. With the prospects before us for the current year, it is hoped a far greater value will be given to the statistical report by a more careful attention to details upon the part of teachers and Commissioners.

The total number of different pupils in the schools last year (6,639) while embracing the greatest part of the children of the County, does not include all the available educational material. Many children who now attend private schools, or are taught in families, will eventually be drawn into the Public Schools; and the means now used for private tuition be, in a great measure, applied to the help of the system. A very liberal disposition is manifested by some of the patrons of public education in contributing largely of their means for the employment of first class teachers. In some of our districts, patrons by voluntary contributions add