

facility for examining into the State and Municipal School Systems and for witnessing the practical working of Schools of every grade.

The State Normal Schools at New Britain, Connecticut, and at Albany, New York, received, as they merited, a most careful and thorough inspection, and through the polite assiduity of the members of the Faculty, I was informed as to the minute detail of their modes of teaching and training.

The information gained during this tour proved to be of great value, and has enabled me to form some estimate of the importance of the work committed to my charge, and of the weighty responsibility imposed by the Constitutional mandate which orders that within thirty days after January 4th, the State Superintendent shall report to the General Assembly a Uniform System of Free Public Schools.

It was not until the last of December, 1864, that I received copies of the Laws of the several States which have established well digested Systems of Free Schools, and was able to commence a close study and a thorough analysis of their provisions.

By this means, I have gathered practical knowledge; and taking suggestions from laws, tested by years of trial, have endeavored to frame a System to meet the present wants of our people, and provide for the demands of the large and intelligent population which will crowd to our borders both from the North and from the South.

To the Circulars issued, the full and satisfactory response which was expected has not been received. The present Systems of County Schools under various Local Laws have not awakened that interest essential to perfect organization and detailed statistical reports. With the exception of a few Counties, the School Authorities are unable to reply to the larger number of queries, because they have never required formal reports of work from teachers or Commissioners. The information collected has been embodied in this Report and presents clear and unimpeachable evidence that we have to begin almost at the foundation and erect anew the Educational edifice.