

can instruct, the occasion for many parts of the system ceases to exist; and its entire adoption, in such cases, cannot, therefore, be urged as necessary or advisable.

As appertaining to the duties of his office, in the contemplation of the act under which he holds his appointment, the Superintendent begs leave to offer a brief exposition of the said act, and to suggest such amendments as the convenience of particular sections, or the general welfare of the state may seem to require.

(B.)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Instructions to the Commissioners of Primary Schools, relative to the division of their County into School Districts.

In pursuance of this duty, you will pursue the tenor and spirit of the "Act to provide for the public instruction of youth in Primary Schools, throughout this State," passed at December session 1825, chapter 162, which in section 5, requires that you, or a majority of you, shall divide your county into a "*suitable and convenient*" number of School Districts; in doing which, you will have regard to existing school houses, where such there be, as far as practicable, in order that the charge upon the resident inhabitants, especially in the first establishment of the system, may not exceed what is absolutely and indispensably necessary. And although the extent of five miles square, has been assumed as convenient for such districts, as a general rule, you are not to be governed by that assumption exclusively, but will yield to localities and circumstances. In sections of sparse population, it may be proper to form the districts equal to an area of six, seven, or eight miles square, whilst in more dense or concentrated settlements, a smaller compass may be adopted—but it will naturally occur to you that the square will not be the most suitable or convenient form; and that in the absence of more palpable boundaries, such as bays, rivers, creeks, mountains, or remarkable hills, roads, established fences, or other lines of demarcation, the most eligible marks of description may be the different dwellings or places of public worships, or other houses; and dista-