

main a blank to the enjoyment of the purer pleasures which are only tasted at the fountains of knowledge.*

But where will we look for this fearful increase of ignorance in our State? To say that it is owing to the increase of foreign population, is a falacy. This might be true, to a limited extent, in our larger cities; but how will we account for it in those counties where there has been little or no increase of population? The secret to this increase must be sought for in other quarters. No man, who will look abroad upon the State and examine the condition of our Public Schools, can for a moment mistake the true cause of this result. There was a time, when private schools were numerous in the State; when the facilities of public instruction were few; when educational labors were left, comparatively speaking, to private enterprise. At length our present system of primary or public schools was established, and the private schools yielded to their advance; but time has clearly demonstrated the fact that our public system, at least in the manner in which it is now conducted, is totally unequal to the task of educating our children. In a great majority of the counties the local laws have been found entirely inadequate to the ends for which they were

*NOTE.—The following table taken from the census of 1850 will show the number of white persons over twenty years of age, unable to read or write in each county and the city of Baltimore respectively. If we take into consideration the difficulty of obtaining correct information on this subject, owing to the unwillingness of persons to acknowledge their ignorance, and other causes, we may infer that the number of adult persons who cannot read or write, is much greater than that exhibited by the table. The number in several counties is evidently erroneous.

MARYLAND CENSUS FOR 1850.

COUNTIES.	No. of Adults unable to read and write.			Total white Population.	No. in 1840, unable to read or write.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Allegany,	667	372	1039	21,633	589
A. Arundel,	256	314	570	16,542	949
*Baltimore,	2074	4412	6486	174,853	2,405
Calvert,	170	188	358	3,630	487
Caroline,	205	198	403	6,096	387
Carroll,	59	70	129	18,667	455
Cecil,	87	70	157	15,472	249
Charles,	224	175	399	5,665	56
Dorchester,	969	699	1665	10,747	1,045
Frederick,	486	1015	1504	33,314	887
Harford,	92	115	207	14,414	44
Kent,	120	84	204	5,616	199
Montgomery,	462	690	1152	9,435	426
P. George's,	197	207	404	8,901	367
Queen Anne's,	352	379	731	6,936	371
St. Mary's,	886	969	1855	6,223	661
Somerset,	366	327	673	13,385	561
Talbot,	146	163	307	7,084	443
Washington,	307	585	892	26,930	721
Worcester,	725	953	1678	12,401	565
	8557	12,258	20,815	417,943	11,817

* This includes Baltimore city and Co. Howard Co. is included in A. Arundel.