

The want of funds is another great cause of the inefficiency of our public schools. The fund provided by the State is quite inadequate for any practical purpose; while the meager sums annually levied in the several counties, for the support of the system, have generally fell far short of the actual wants of the schools. In consequence of this deficiency of the funds, the schools in many of the counties cannot be kept open for more than five or six months in the year, and in some for a less period. Now, it is well known that there are many parents who require the services of their elder children at home, particularly during the summer season of the year; and during the same period they send their younger children to school; and again, during the winter season, when the inclemency of the weather will not permit their younger children to attend, they send their older children to share the benefits of the school. But if the schools are closed for the greater part of the year, it frequently happens, that at the time when they stand most in need of the schools, to their great disappointment they find them closed. If they enquire the cause, they are told that the school fund is exhausted—that the schools will not be resumed until next summer, or next winter, as the case may be, when the new levy shall be made. Parents are, therefore, compelled to forego the education of their children and to dismiss their teacher, or retain him at their private expense. The last, though not the least of evils which follow from the want of funds, is this; that the services of a competent teacher can seldom be obtained; for no man who values his services will engage in the arduous duties of teaching with a knowledge of the fact, that he will be idle, and will, consequently, receive no compensation for the greater part of the year.

These evils have been keenly felt, especially by those who could not avail themselves of the services of a private teacher; the voice of complaint on the subject has gone up from almost every section of the State. The friends of popular education have long indulged the delusive hope, that time would correct this evil, and point out the importance of increasing the school fund.

They look forward to the day, which they thought was not far distant, when there would be a sufficient fund to educate every child in the State; but each succeeding year has only blighted their most cherished anticipations, and brought with it renewed disappointment. No effectual efforts have been made to increase

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addition to an educational journal, the cause of education would be greatly advanced by the establishment of a *Library* in every school district in the State. When we reflect, that there are about one thousand school districts in the State, we may readily perceive the immense advantages that these libraries would confer, not only upon the children of the community, but upon the inhabitants generally; it would render them that which is so much to be wished for, a *reading people*. To the friends of education, we commend the subject. Finally, our young men would reap a thousand literary advantages from well organised lyceums or debating associations. It was in these associations, that some of Maryland's most distinguished sons first developed that genius which gives to their names an imperishable fame.