

Due the School House Fund.....	1,283 95
Net Amount due to Schools.....	<u>\$420 24</u>

PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

Opposition to the school system is constantly growing less, and I do most sincerely hope that the day is fast approaching when every parent in the County will feel that he is not fully discharging his duty to God, to his children and to his State, until he lends his aid, influence and means to educate physically, morally and intellectually, all the youth, poor and rich, in the County.

We have been asked by some, "Why were the schools continued under the old system the whole year—also last year and not the coming year." We have also been asked, "Why has the amount, appropriated to schools the past year, being much more than former years, been given to the same old teachers?" We answer, now, to the above queries: 1. Schools, under the old system, were open only three months according to our last report. 2. We thought that our finances would avail us for the past year, but at its close found them deficient \$2,048 81, which could not be paid till we received the Free School fund for 1866, a part of the revenue for the current year. 3. We desire no better teachers than some of our native teachers, who taught under the old system. These we pay but little more than they received by private contributions and salary under old laws. The objectionable teachers are retained, because we could procure no better ones out of those making applications. Expenses have accordingly increased, because we pay higher salaries, teach a longer time and have many more schools in successful operation.

We consider these inquiries, as doubtless they were intended, more as an evidence of interest in public instruction than as evincing a spirit of distrust or dissatisfaction.

REMARKS.

As the success of the schools depends, in a great measure upon the ability and energy of the teachers, it is earnestly urged that all those who intend to be teachers, use every means possible to thoroughly prepare themselves for their honorable calling; as it is my intention, so long as I may be retained as President of the School Board, to raise the standard of qualification annually, till the drones of the profession are driven out and the schools filled with earnest, warm-hearted, living teachers.

I believe this to be the great desideratum for the future of our schools. We need men and women who are competent