

amount only \$2,854.50 has been paid, leaving as per balance, \$2,617.50 due of the tax of 1865. We have received \$2,000 of the County tax of 1866, which will be replaced out of the balance, and leave an additional balance of \$617.50 to be added to the \$550.63, which will make the proper balance of 1866, July 31st, \$1,168.13, leaving the full \$7,000 County tax [as a part of 1866,] for the support of the schools from September 1st, 1866.

On the 22d day of May, 1866, I called all our teachers together, and held an "Institute" in accordance with the law. Proceedings were held four days and resulted favorably to the interest of the New System. Professors Newell and Leakin, who presided on the occasion, expressed themselves pleased with the readiness of the answers of the teachers; and they were equally pleased with the Professors. I, with them, return my thanks to the distinguished Professors for their interest manifested in the cause of education on the occasion of their visit to our County. A Teachers' Association has been formed in the County, with the fair prospect of much good. The new system is working well in this County.

The few opponents of the system, are composed of those who do not take the trouble to visit the schools; for of the many who are beginning to visit the schools when examinations are held by me, I have seen none, who do not think the new system is working well, and preferable to the old system; and from the increased attendance in the schools, the system is gaining favor. Old average, 750 pupils; present average, 1200 pupils.

I cannot close this report without returning my thanks to the citizens of Howard in general for their manifest interest in the schools of the County, and for their appreciation of my efforts therein, and especially for their attention to me during my quarterly visits of which due notice is given in time to invite the parents of the pupils, and the friends of education generally.

To my associates, Dr. Hopkins and Mr. Burdett, I return my thanks for their aid and support in my efforts in the good cause. Harmony in all things, has marked our pleasant intercourse during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL KER DASHNELL,

President the of Board of School Commissioners of Howard County.