

*To the General Assembly of Maryland:*

ON the 12th day of November, 1865, the Governor honored me with the appointment of State Superintendent of Public Instruction according to the provisions of the 8th Article of our New Constitution.

As soon as practicable thereafter, I adopted such plans as would enable me to collect information concerning the present condition of Education both Public and Private within the State, and also to avail myself of the experience of those sister States which have preceded us in providing Free Schools and Academies for all their Youth.

I invited personal conference with citizens interested in the cause of Public Instruction, and specially with practical educators, whether engaged in conducting private or public Schools.

Letters were addressed to the Editors of City and County Newspapers, asking them to direct the attention of their readers to the important subject of Universal Education, and to make such suggestions as would enable me to frame the New System to meet the practical wants of the whole State.

Having prepared and issued Circulars and a Schedule of queries embodying in detail the points on which Statistical information is needed, I devoted the time which must necessarily elapse before replies could be received, to visit other States and to confer with their Superintendents of Public Instruction in person, as I had previously done by letter. For this purpose I visited Hartford and New Britain in Connecticut, Boston, Albany and New York. In each City I was received with gratifying cordiality and enjoyed every