SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ON SCHOOLS.

To "Baltimore Association," concerning Friends' Schools in North Carolina:

The following Report may be regarded as covering our operations for the First School Year; commencing with the arrival of John Scott, a member of your Board and myself in North Carolina, about the opening of the year 1866, (he acting as Superintendent for the first two months,) and ending with the Eighth Month. This period embraces the Monthly Meeting Schools and the Normal School for Teachers—the former ending with or before the close of the Sixth Month.

On the first survey of the field there were found to be nearly twenty Schools already in operation, which were scattered pretty generally over the limits of the Yearly Meeting. Said Schools were started by Monthly Meetings or by families of Friends, under promise of aid from the Baltimore Association. Most of them were in very inferior houses, with little or no furniture *at all suitable* for a School house. In some instances we accepted the responsibility of paying the Teachers, and in others we left that in the hands, either of the Monthly Meetings or the individuals who employed them, with the understanding that such as were not able to pay their Schooling, were to receive aid from us. In the course of the Winter and Spring we employed ten more Teachers. We had thus a little over thirty Schools. We paid the Salaries of the Teachers in seventeen of these and gave more or less aid to nearly all the others.

Omitting three of the Schools, which were very small and received but little attention from us, there were in attendance, in all, nine hundred and forty Children—five hundred and eighty of whom were Friends' Children or so related as to come under the limitations for aid—and three hundred and forty-six not Friends. The daily average attendance for all the Schools was twenty-four. Length of time of the Schools from three to seven Months—average about four Months.

The scarcity of Books and the unsuitableness of many already in use, made it needful to furnish a supply to the Schools generally. This has required a pretty heavy outlay on the part of the Association.

On a general review of the Schools, it became apparent, that in order for their greater efficiency in the future, it would be necessary to have a Normal School, especially for training Teachers in the branches to be taught and in methods of teaching, and governing, or else to obtain those from a distance who had had the opportunity of some training in the profession. Believing that the requisite talent and qualifications could be obtained here if made available by proper training—with the unity of the Association a call was made for such a School to be held at Springfield Meeting House for a month or more; which met with a liberal response. The School continued for nearly seven weeks and numbered over fifty attendants before its close. It was throughout an interesting and satisfactory occasion, not only to those in regular attendance, but to the numerous visitors from the surrounding and more remote neighborhoods. From those who attended the Normal, there have already been selected twenty-two Teachers for our Schools the coming year.

The present school year may be regarded as beginning with the Ninth Month. As the Schools have either just opened, or are about opening, no very definite and systematic report can be made out as yet. In order that the fund might satisfactorily accomplish the result desired, it was indispensable that a number of new school houses should be built, others enlarged, many of the old ones repaired and nearly all of them furnished with seats and desks. Friends of N. Carolina are doing the principal part of this work themselves, and their efforts for the education of their Children are encouraging, but still, on account of the scarcity of money and the shortness of the crops this year, it has been thought proper to render them considerable aid towards houses. Some delays in building and repairing have made it impracticable for the Schools to begin simultaneously. In several instances Schools have commenced in Meeting Houses, with the understanding that school houses would soon be erected. There are either completed or on the way, [illegible] or ten new school houses, viz: One at Deep River; one at Marlboro; one at Back Creek; one at Centre; one at Cane Creek; one at Hunting Creek; one in limits of Rich Square; two in limits of Piney Woods, and probably one at Holly Spring. These with two exceptions, are ample and convenient buildings, and situated near the Meeting Houses. The work being thus better centralized, the Schools will be fewer in number than last year; but we have reason to hope, much more efficient. The number for the present year is twenty-five, nearly all of which are now in operation. The Schools would correspond more nearly in numbers with the Monthly Meetings, were it not that in nearly all the Monthly Meetings the Children are too remote for all to have access to the same School. The Schools are distributed as follows:

New Garden Quarterly Meeting has the Yearly Meeting Boarding School within its limits, but no School under our care.

Deep River Quarter.—Deep River Monthly Meeting, one School. Springfield Monthly Meeting, three Schools. Deep Creek Monthly Meeting, two Schools.

Southern Quarter.—Marlboro Monthly Meeting, three Schools. Back Creek Monthly Meeting, one School, (perhaps two.) Holly Spring Monthly Meeting, two Schools, (perhaps three.)

Western Quarter.—Centre Monthly Meeting, three Schools. Cane Creek Monthly Meeting, two Schools. Spring Monthly Meeting, one School.

Contentnea Quarter—Neuse Monthly Meeting, one School. Nahunta Monthly Meeting, one School.

Eastern Quarter.—Rich Square Monthly Meeting, three Schools. Piney Woods Monthly Meeting, two Schools.

For those Schools, in addition to those Teachers who reside in North Carolina, we have two from New England, one from New York, and one from Indiana.

The whole number attending our Schools the present year, will in all probability, judging from the opening, be something over eleven hundred, of which, about seventy per cent. are Friends' Children. Others than Friends pay tuition at moderate rates, and whilst being benefited themselves, help to make up Schools in some neighborhoods where the number of Friends' Children would not be sufficient. The money thus received goes into the fund.

The Teachers are all members of our Religious Society, except two or three, and these attend our Meetings and profess with us.

The greater part of my time is taken up in visiting the Schools, with the desire to help and encourage Teachers, Parents and Scholars, by discussing with them various matters pertaining to education in its widest sense, by conducting some of the recitations during my visits to the Schools, by occasional evening lectures for a whole neighborhood, &c., as way opens.

The State Fund for the support of Public Schools was all sunk during the war, and educational interests throughout the State are generally in a low condition. In view of this, we have reason to hope that our labors will not only prove a blessing to our own members but will have a tendency to keep alive in the surrounding community more interest in so important a subject than would otherwise exist.

The Board will be interested in knowing that there is a growing interest in First Day Schools and Bible Classes, and that out of the large number of Bibles and Testaments sent down here, a sufficient number have been distributed to supply these Schools and the families so far as appears, and a number have been given to those not Friends. The greater part of these Bibles are still on hand. Steps are about being taken to organize Bible Societies, by which Friends here will aid in the general distribution wherever most needed throughout the community.

I rejoice to say to the Association that the prospect for a blessing on your labors here is encouraging, and that it is a work in which I feel it to be a privilege to have a part.

JOSEPH MOORE, *Superintendent.*

BUSH HILL, RANDOLPH CO., N. C.

Tenth Month, 1866.