in Maryland struggled manfully for four years against this ~~pecuniary~~ difficulty, with increasing schools & pupils until we rested upon fiscal year last summer free of debt. We assessed half of the amount as an additional contribution upon our Cong^n & raised the balance thro' Sent Hornady the missionary fund of the Col^d people & four outside home contributors. Nearly every one was loth to start the work again in the autumn in the face of so much pecuniary responsibility & we lost a full month & scattered some four best teachers into more southern states. It was at this critical juncture that some funds were brot forward & some home personal pledges made. Sent Hornady again came to our aid & the Col^d people were agreed to open their missionary boxes — 20 schools were started — they soon rose to 40 & then to 60, with an average roll list of 70 & attendance of 50. Thus far we have passed a great month of debt & I ~~start~~ believe we shall circumvent as many difficulties this year as last, with more adult schools, tho' the schools are larger.

I look back upon this ordeal, thro' which we passed as an extremely critical one & I do not