

of Liberty county. In my judgment the schools of the county are in a better condition than ever before. There is much improvement needed, and much yet to be done before the schools of the county are anything like they ought to be. We have had difficulties, financially and otherwise, to contend with; but, notwithstanding all this, there has been considerable improvement made during the past two years, and we propose to keep doing our best for the betterment of our schools by the proper use of the means at our command.

Effect of Examination Law.--As a consequence of the new school law we have better teachers and better schools. We have seven white teachers in the county, and the white schools can all be taught by two schools being taught by the same teacher.

We have only two colored teachers in the county, and for that cause some of the small colored schools cannot be taught.

New Buildings.--Several new school houses have been built in the county during the past two years.

In the year 1894 a good school house was built at Bristol, at a cost of more than \$1,600, for the purpose of establishing a County High School.

County High School.--We have employed competent teachers and have had good schools. For the year beginning July 1, 1894, the Bristol High School was taught for a term of eight months. For the year beginning July 1, 1895, four months, and for the year beginning July 1, 1896, four months, the term being shortened for lack of school funds.

The Bristol High School is located on a ten acre lot, in a healthy locality, near Bristol, the county site. It has been deeded to the Board of Public Instruction, is paid for, and free from all incumbrances.

Suggestion--Make a High School Mandatory.--I think it would be well to have a law enacted that would require each county in the State to establish one High School at the county site, or some central point in the county, and that the length of the term in each High School shall be at least six months.

Yours very respectfully,

T. J. GREGORY,

County Superintendent Public Instruction.

#### MADISON COUNTY

Hon. W. M. Sheats, Tallahassee, Fla.:

Dear Sir--In reply to your circular letter of recent date, I say that the years 1894 and '95 and '96 have been years of prosperity in Madison county schools.

New Buildings.--We have built several good comfortable buildings, and have repaired many others. We have not moved as fast as could be desired, but we are doing all that our funds will allow. Having just emerged from under a debt of twenty-five hundred dollars, we try to be cautious lest we again become entangled under the same yoke of debt.

Sinking Fund.--I have been anxious to provide a Sinking Fund, so that we could