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Freedmen's Bureau

Mississippi Assistant Commissioner, Letters Received, Entered in Volume 2, R, Jan. 1866–Feb. 1867, Part 3

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pupils. We now, with increased means of information, and greater assurance of certainty, estimate that, beyond the 90,778 pupils as officially reported, there are, including the above irregular and Sabbath-schools, with colored soldiers and individuals who are learning at home, one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) freedmen and their children, who at the present moment are earnestly and successfully occupied in the study of books.

There is also a considerable number of schools for refugee white children, and your officers encourage the formation of these; but the reports of the last quarter, for some reason, give us less information on this subject than formerly.

Our report in detail from the several States, is as follows:

VIRGINIA.

In the State of Virginia there are one hundred and twenty-three (123) schools, two hundred (200) teachers, eleven thousand seven hundred and eighty-four (11,784) pupils, with an average attendance of eight thousand nine hundred and fifty-one (8,951). This is about the same number as was reported on the first of January last.

The whole field of education in the State has been gradually enlarging, and schools are demanded in new localities. Some of the better class of white citizens favor the elevation of the negro, and a considerable number of earnest calls have been made by them for teachers and books. Only a portion of these, however, could be met, from lack of means in the hands of the benevolent Associations: and the controlling classes of the State have neither the disposition nor the ability to undertake any part of this work, beyond a very little in Sunday-schools. It may be said that no practical sympathy or assistance from citizens is to be looked for at present in educating the freedmen, though the religious conventions of the State have passed resolutions acknowledging it to be their duty.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The schools in this State numbered, on the first of July, one hundred and nineteen (119); teachers, one hundred and thirty-five (135); pupils, nine thousand and eighty-four (9,084).

This is a considerable increase over the last semi-annual report, though a loss of seventeen (17) schools, twenty-three (23) teachers, and eighteen hundred and eighty-seven (1,887) pupils, as enumerated on the first of June.

We have no way of accounting for this decrease, except

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