

With the restriction which the law imposes on the raising of money by taxation for the support of schools, there has been great dissatisfaction, and petitions were sent to the legislature some two years since, praying them to permit such an amount to be levied as the people may judge necessary for the entire support of our schools, making them *free*.

So entirely was this the disposition of the inhabitants that, after having the matter in contemplation some three months, an expression was called for at the polls, which resulted in the almost unanimous approbation of the measure, there being but *three* dissenting votes.

It is confidently believed that the repeal of this restrictive feature of the law, leaving the amount over and above that required, wholly discretionary with the good sense of the mass of the people in each township, would be productive of the happiest influences in the state. It would call forth more universal attention to the subject, cause many more to send their children, remove the great barrier to the instruction of the apprenticed, and make the continuance of the schools more constant. Prominently, it would secure education to the poor.