

I have the satisfaction to report to the State Superintendent that the schools in the several districts in the township of Belleville, N. J., are in a healthy state, and in all matters which concern the interest of our public schools, those to whose care they are entrusted manifest great care and attention in their management. We have in the township five districts, viz: South Belleville, Montgomery, Second River, North Belleville and Franklin, all incorporated but one, South Belleville, our smallest district, numbering about sixty children between the ages of five and eighteen years. This district was formerly joined to a small district in Bloomfield, which union was dissolved, and their progress has since been limited. The school for the summer season has been under the care of a competent female teacher, but will be discontinued for the winter months, not being able to provide a suitable room. Our reports from the Montgomery school are not so favorable, on account of the frequent change of teachers the past year, and the school has thereby suffered some interruption and their progress somewhat retarded. The school is now under the care of a male teacher well recommended, with a female assistant.

Our village district, the Second River, the largest in the township, is well cared for; provided with one able male teacher and two female teachers; the schools in separate rooms, with good accommodations. We report the institution in a flourishing condition, and the trustees careful in watching its interest.

The North Belleville school has been vacated during the past season on account of the rebuilding of their house, and not being able to find a room to accommodate them. They have erected and nearly finished a spacious frame building which does them much credit, and which will add greatly to the interest of the neighborhood.

The Franklin school in their new and very convenient house has been open the past year under the care of competent teachers; the earlier part of the year under the care of two females; now a male, with a female assistant. The school is carefully attended to and the people much interested in the institution. With regard to the working of our free school system, it seems to meet with the favor of our people, and is doing good, especially among a class of people whose children if not provided for in the free school would be left to grow up in ignorance, so we bid the free school system God speed—may it prosper and long continue to be a blessing to the land in which we live.

SAM'L L. WARD,  
Town Superintendent.