It is desired that the duties required by these instructions may be completed as soon as practicable, that the Trustees, and other officers of each respective corporation may be elected, that each and all may proceed harmoniously, and that the expected benefits may be commenced and realized with as little delay as possible—in all which the liberal spirit and patriotic zeal of your good people will be most worthily manifested.

The foregoing arrangements are necessarily required in anticipation of the essential appropriation, and assignment of means, for carrying the system into efficient, and beneficial operation; and that their completion and organization will produce an effect so ardently desired by all the friends of public instruction, cannot be questioned upon any just, or reasonable ground—in the mean time, the existing funds for free and County Schools, and the dividends arising from subsequent investments are yielding revenues, comparatively, greater than the means allotted by New-York at the commencement of her system, and additional aid may be expected from the next Congress.

It may also be proper to remark that the amendments, which seemed to be, most generally, demanded; and the equal admission of the whole State, to a common participation of all the benefits of this munificence, were passed through the popular branch at the last session of the General Assembly; but the difficulties which arose in harmonizing the contrariety of opinion, and adjusting the various details, were such as to protract a decision, to so late a period, that sufficient time was not allowed, to the other branch, for the deliberate consideration, and determination of that interesting concernment—being, however, thus matured, the matter will doubtless engage the early attention of the next convention of the legislature.

Your communications, through the President of your board, are respectfully requested, and every information which may be required will be cheerfully imparted.

LITTLETON DENNIS TEACKLE.

Superintendent of Public Instruction.

[No. 2.]

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

ANNAPOLIS, March 15, 1827.

Instructions to the Commissioners of Primary Schools, relative to the division of their County into School Districts.

In the performance of this duty you will pursue the tenor and spirit of the "Act to provide for the public instruction of youth, in Primary Schools, throughout this State," passed at December Session, 1825; chapter 162; which, in section 5, requires that you, or a majority of you, shall divide your County into a "*suitable and convenient*" number of School Districts; in doing which you will have regard to existing school-houses, where such there be, as far as practicable; in order that the charge upon the resident inhabitants, especially in the first establishment of the system, may not exceed what is absolutely and indispensably necessary. And, although the extent of five miles square, has been assumed as convenient for such districts, as a general rule, you are not to be governed by that assumption exclusively, but will yield to localities, and circumstances. In sections of sparse population it may be proper to form the districts equal to an area of six, seven, or eight miles square, whilst in more dense, or concentrated settlements, a smaller compass may be adopted—but it will, naturally, occur to you that the square will not be the most suitable, or convenient form; and that in the absence of more palpable boundaries, such as bays, rivers, creeks, mountains, or remarkable hills, roads, established fences, or other lines of demarcation, the most eligible marks of description may be the different dwellings, or places of public worship, or other houses; and distinguishing from house to house, around the school-house as a common centre, reserving always that every dwelling, without the line, which may have been omitted, or overlooked, and all such as may thereafter be erected, during the continuance of the district, shall, of right, belong to the nearest school-house. In many cases, however, you will find it necessary to circumscribe a district by its natural limits, such as a small island, on which there may not be a sufficient number of children for the support of a school, and which cannot, conveniently, be attached to any adjacent district; in such cases, as the distribution of the public money will be in proportion to the number of children, it will be necessary, to enable the inhabitants to partake of the benefits of the law, for them to provide the residue of means to complete the salary of their teacher, or to graduate the duration of their school according to the amount distributed to them. And the like necessity will equally occur in every peninsula, or long neck of land, or district of sparse population; but such occurrences, it may be hoped, will be found rare.

Having finished the division of your County into a "*suitable, and convenient number of School Districts,*" according to the best of your discretion and judgment, you will proceed to describe and number the same, and to deliver the description and number thereof, to the Clerk of your County Court, to be recorded as required by section 8 of the Act in question, for which purpose the public advertisements, herewith transmitted, have been prepared; and you will take care that not less than five of these notices be put up in the most public places of each of the said districts.