the voice is an essential feature of good reading, and that education should be commenced as early as possible in the pupil's life. It should be one of the most prominent, as it is one of the most important studies of primary school education.

Should our school operations be continued in their present form, I hope to be able to make further advances in this very essential department of our Public School system.

THE FLOATING SCHOOL.

The discontinuance of the Floating School is, to me, a matter of regret. The necessity that impelled this event was unavoidable. The troubles occasioned by the war rendered the services of most of the boys that attended the school essential in the support of their families. When this demand was satisfied there were but few of the pupils left, and they were the youngest of the school—those of the primary classes.

The Floating School has never been placed in the position designed by its founders. Its true basis is that of a State institution in which all the counties, equally with the city, may be interested and possess an equality of privilege. The purpose of its establishment was the elevation of the profession of the sailor by introducing into its service a class of educated young men who would be able to represent its interests at home and abroad upon a much higher level than that it now occupies. The experiment, as far as tried, was eminently successful. In the possession of the knowledge, attained in the school, our boys felt their superiority over the common sailor, and could never be induced to engage in the low pursuits to which he is accustomed. In no instance has a graduate of this school been known to disgrace his certificate. But in every case the young man has reached distinction in good conduct as well as in the evidence of superior abilities. All the graduates have returned frequently to school to report themselves, and but few of them now rank lower than Captain in our merchant

service. The offices of second, and in some cases of first mate, have been conferred upon boys taken from the deck and school room of the ship. The first meeting appointed by the founders of this school was held in the Baltimore Exchange. The meeting was called by notice prepared by myself at the suggestion of Captain William Leslie, one of the oldest captains of the port of Baltimore and long among the most prominent shipping merchants of our city and a member of the Board of Trade. Of the meeting Captain Leslie was chairman and the undersigned seretary. It was proposed immediately after the organization of the meeting, and the proposition was admitted and reserved for future action, that the school should be incorporated as a State institution. One of the main features of the institution was to be a boarding department, in which the pupils were to live under the direction of their instructors. Board and tuition were to be free alike to pupils from the city and counties; the city and counties to be represented pro rata according to population in the number of pupils admitted.

The undersigned was called upon by a large number of persons from all parts of the city and some two or three from the counties desiring admission for their sons, who were greatly disappointed when they learned that no boarding department had been provided, and that they must of necessity be deprived of the advantages of the school.

The usefulness of such an institution is apparent in the interesting and valuable features it presents. Its success in elevating the characters of its graduates in the gift of a good education and of the seamen's profession, through them, is indicated by the service it has already performed. A number of cases can be adduced as evidences of the truth of this declaration.

The Floating School of Baltimore was the first established of its kind. In England and other countries there were institutions *on shore* for the education of young sailors, but ours is the first ever introduced on ship-board, and in which, upon the waves, the seaman was to be prepared for his profession. Since ours was organized other similar institutions