The gentlemen were allowed time for dinner between one and two o'clock each day, this being the period at which the schools were at recess. The classes were examined in the presence of the gentlemen in an entirely extemporaneous manner, offering opportunity for questions by any person in attendance. The examination took the pupils almost entirely from their books, and drew out their reasoning powers in the original answers required. No practice upon the rote system from the books could have produced such an examination. The evolution of thought was free and rapid, and in some instances, surprisingly intelligent.

The gentlemen of the committee were informed that one of the schools visited labored under as many disadvantages as could operate against most of the county schools. They were told that a large number of the pupils would be obliged to leave school in the spring for work in the brick-yards. Surprise was exhibited that such proficiency should have been attained by pupils who were able to afford so small a proportion of their time in attendance upon the schools. One of the gentlemen remarked that the boys had answered questions that would do credit to persons of matured life that were well educated.

The surprise and pleasure of the committee were frequently expressed in addresses delivered to the pupils, who were highly delighted with the compliments they received. The teachers were very highly commended for the success of their labors as witnessed by the committee.

The visit of the committee of the Legislature will be long remembered by the pupils of the schools, who were desirous of the exhibition of a most hearty approval the attention their schools had elicited from the highest legislative council of their State. Such visits frequently repeated would not only extend the desired information in relation to the condition of our schools, but afford both teachers and pupils encouragement for the prosecution of their important and necessary labors in their educational pursuits. The following is the report of the committee:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

"The committee appointed to visit and examine the Public Schools of the city of Baltimore, respectfully report that they never performed a more pleasing official duty. They visited and examined the schools in their three grades of Primary, Grammar and High Schools. The system pursued in the management of the schools is complete in its course of study and transfer on the attainment of proficiency, not only from the lower to the higher grades of schools, but from the lower to the higher classes of each of the grades. The pupils are examined and transferred quarterly from the Primary to the Grammar Schools. At the time of these examinations and transfers, the pupils in all the classes of the Grammar and Primary Schools are examined and transferred from the lower to the higher classes. The pupils of the High Schools are admitted, after examination, once a year. They are examined in July and admitted in September. There are stated examinations and advancement of the pupils of the High Schools once in six months.

The pupils of the schools were examined in the studies of their respective classes, the schools not having any notice of the visit of the committee. The proficiency of the pupils is remarkable in each of the grades of schools and classes of the schools. The examinations were conducted generally by oral questions, outside of the books, developing, in an astonishing degree, the intelligence of the pupils and the use they are able to make of the knowledge they have attained.

The systematic development of the spelling department attracted the especial attention of the committee. It does not consist of an assemblage of words of the same number of syllables, and of like termination, but of the words in their etymological association, giving the root of the word, its prefix and affix, its definition and the family of words to which it belongs. The words of all the reading books, the histories, the geography, and even of the arithmetic, are spelled and defined and etymologized in the same way.

In the Central High School recitations were conducted in