

fund; and Col. Daniel M. Parkinson, who was chairman of the Assembly committee which made the earliest inquiries into the expediency of establishing a common school system in the State.

At Mineral Point, in July, 1830, was built the first school house in the Mineral District of which we can gain any account. It was constructed of logs, and when not occupied by the school, it furnished also accommodations in its single room for a justices' court, and for religious meetings. In August of the year in which it was erected, a select school was opened in it by Mr. Henry Boyer, who taught afterwards, as we have already shown, at Prairie Du Chien. He remained there three terms, and charged the small children two dollars and a half for their tuition, and the larger ones three and a half. The house soon passed into the hands of the Presbyterian church, and another was put up in 1834, and a school was kept in it for a year, by the Rev. Mr. Campbell and his daughter, the first lady teacher of the place. In 1856 a school of fifty scholars was taught in the Methodist log meeting-house, probably by a Mr. Parker and his daughter.

The second school in the Mineral District was started at Platteville in the spring of 1834. A school house had been erected the year previous, west of where the village now stands. It was 18 by 20 or 22 feet, one story, and made of hewn logs, well put together. The school was supported by subscription, had twelve or fourteen pupils, and was taught by Samuel Huntington, an experienced school master. He seems to have been at the time an adventurer, and directed his attention and that of his scholars in hunting for veins of lead in the vicinity. The school was afterwards moved into the village, and was taught, in 1836, by Dr. A. T. Locey, who had forty pupils.

Though prominent men in this district engaged subsequently with much earnestness in developing the common school interests of the State, yet the cause of education made feeble progress in the beginning among the miners. Their occupation did not tend toward building up schools; they migrated