

with the limited means heretofore placed at their disposal, much good has already been accomplished, and the efficacy of the measures adopted for the attainment of their object, has been amply and successfully proved.

Your memorialists feel themselves emboldened by the disposition which has been manifested by your honorable body, to diffuse the benefits of education throughout the community, and to place the means of instruction within the reach of every member of it, now to lay before the General Assembly, the difficulties in which the Institute has become unavoidably involved, and to solicit from them such relief as they may deem proper to afford.

The means adopted by the Maryland Institute, as well as by all other similar institutions aiming to impart instruction to a number of persons at the same time, have consisted chiefly in the delivery of regular courses of lectures. But, in order to lecture with any advantage upon the various branches of natural philosophy, it is indispensably necessary that the lecturer should be able to illustrate the principles he inculcates, by practical experiments; and for this purpose, he must have at his command an extensive philosophical apparatus. The president and managers were early impressed with the necessity of procuring such an apparatus; and as this was not to be obtained in this country, and as the utility of the Institute so essentially depended on its possession, they did not hesitate to import from France, whatever was found requisite. In taking this step, the