

solicitude than this: it is of vital importance to the existence of our free institutions; but it must be admitted, that, in Maryland the system of Education is far removed from perfection. One of the causes of this is found in our sparse and scattered population. Although Free schools are established in some of the counties, yet the good effects of them are not felt in that satisfactory manner and to that extent which is desirable. Some other means ought to be resorted to, and I would suggest for your consideration the propriety of devoting part of the funds of the state to the ample endowment of a sufficient number of colleges for the education of our youth, thereby preventing the necessity of sending a vast quantity of treasure to other states for that purpose. I would with great pride refer to the distinguished sons of Maryland who have presented this subject in more glowing colors than I can, and invite your attention to the files of your body for their opinions and arguments in relation to it. Should the General government come to the conclusion to make an equitable distribution of the public lands amongst the states, the proceeds from this source would contribute largely towards the means of obtaining this desirable end.

By an act of the Legislature, the Governor is authorized to appoint twenty Deaf and Dumb children, to be sent to the Asylum at Philadelphia, for the purpose of being educated in that institution. The applications for appointment are frequent. Some, who are appointed, from different causes, are never sent, and great delay often takes place in the sending of others. It is a most noble charity, on the part of the State, and the number authorized ought constantly to be complete. I would therefore state, that an alteration in the law might be advantageous, specifying some short time for the persons appointed to arrive at the Institution, and requiring a certificate from the Managers of the admission of the individual. Should the time for the reception of the certificate elapse the vacancy would be immediately supplied by the appointment of some other of those unfortunate persons.

There is a subject connected with the Internal Improvement of the State, to which I beg leave to call your most serious attention. It is well known to every member of your honorable body, that Maryland has embarked her funds liberally in support of a system of Internal Improvement—that there are now fostered by her, and constructing under her auspices, two stupendous works, for the connex-