

reputation. They advanced money from their own resources, and obtained loans upon their own responsibility. They surmounted embarrassments of the most discouraging character; yet, firm to their purpose, and unawed in their devotion, they continued to persevere in their undertaking, until they finally achieved by individual effort, what is usually only accomplished under the fostering influence of legislative enactment, and public endowment.

We are aware that an impression very generally prevails, that the University of Maryland has received liberal appropriations from the state. It is, however, a notorious fact, known to all who are conversant with the circumstances of the case, that not one cent has ever been directly appropriated by the legislature for the benefit of the institution. True, an act was passed authorizing a specified sum to be raised by lotteries, to advance the interests and defray the expenses of the school. Yet for this privilege, the state exacted a tax, which instead of taking money from the treasury, went absolutely to enrich the public coffers. Nor were the full benefits of this ever realized; for before the drawing of the lotteries was completed, the state, anxious to receive the exclusive advantage of that source of revenue, contracted with the managers for the scheme, which it obtained by paying a bonus, far inferior to its real value to the institution.

It should be stated, however, that when the institution had attracted to its halls a large and respectable class from all parts of the union, but was yet saddled with debts, contracted in the erection of the buildings, and in the purchase of a museum, and appropriate apparatus, application was again made; for legislative assistance, yet the state was only willing to become responsible for a loan of \$30,000, redeemable in 30 years, on condition of the Faculty paying, during that period, an annual interest upon that amount. To extinguish this loan, a sinking fund of \$500 per annum was created by the legislature, which, according to the report of the committee of ways and means, has already amounted to upwards of \$12000, so that your memorialists conceive, (the original amount of the loan, having been thus reduced more than one third) that the state might with propriety release them