

Your committee, in recommending the college to the patronage of the State, respectfully suggest that the full developement of the contemplated system of public instruction will necessarily produce the necessity of an establishment of this kind where those of our youth who have gone through the course of instruction provided in the common schools, and who may wish to acquire a more liberal education, may be able to obtain it without seeking it in some distant State, as is now the case. There were, in the year 1835, sixty-four colleges in the United States, containing about 5,500 students—twenty-eight of them were established during the previous fourteen years. These are mostly situated in the northern and middle States. Under the supposition that the number will not increase in any greater ratio than in former years, by the time the population of the United States amounts to fifty millions, there will not be more than one hundred colleges in the whole country, which would give one college to every 500,000 souls. This would be manifestly a very small proportion; and, so far as it is possible, such a result should be obviated. There are in Maryland eight colleges—a very large number. They are, for the most part, filled principally by youths who finish their studies in the colleges of other States, or prematurely go into the professions without any regular college education. Such need not be the case, if the State, regardful of her own interest and reputation, will extend an enlightened patronage to even one of the institutions which now exist within her territory.

Your committee therefore earnestly commend this establishment to the favorable notice of the Legislature. It is one which in former years sent out men who were at once the pride and glory of the State; and, under a liberal system of legislative patronage, such a result will occur again. Why should the sons of our State, after having become prepared by their previous studies for entrance into college, be sent off to distant States for that purpose, while the same advantages might be more conveniently and as effectually found at home? Why should those of our own citizens who, in after life, may become distinguished either in the pulpit, at the bar or in the councils of state, be obliged to point to Yale, or Harvard, or, peradventure, to Oxford, Trinity Göttingen, or some other university, in some distant land, and recognize it as his alma mater, while, within the confines of his own State, this institution, venerable for years and its former glories, should be entirely overlooked or forgotten? Your committee trust that such will not be the case; but that Maryland, emulating the example of New England, the land of intelligence and generous views in regard to education, will be found nobly exerting her efforts to attain an equally enviable distinction.

SAMUEL JONES, Jr.,
Ch'n of the Committee of the Senate.
I. D. MAULSBY,
Ch'n on part of House of Delegates.