

him transmitted to the Legislature within that month. The fact is, that some have reported to the Legislature only, others to the Treasurer, and nearly all, since the 20th of January. These omissions the committee believe arise from their being uninformed of the conditions of the law, and not from a disposition to disregard them. We would therefore recommend that the Treasurer be required to pay over to them their several donations as heretofore.

Reports have also been received from the Orphan's Court of Caroline County, relative to the School Fund of said county, from the Justices of the Orphan's Court of Prince George's and from the Commissioner of the School Fund of Queen Anns and Calvert counties.

In obedience to an order submitted to the house, January 28, "That the Committee on Education be required to report some proper mode of distributing the surplus revenue derived from the General Government of the United States, and also to recommend some general system of education to be adopted by the whole State," the Committee beg leave most respectfully to

REPORT:

That they are decidedly of opinion the interests of education would be better subserved by investing this sum into State Stock, and dividing the interest accruing thereon, agreeably to the ratio at present established, among the counties, than by any division of the fund itself among them. By such investment we should impress upon them a character of the greatest security and permanency, (co-equal with the existence and well being of the State) and at the same time secure a regular and uniform distribution of the interest so essential to the success of education.

In reply to the second part of the order, the Committee ask to be indulged in a brief review of the history of education as it has existed in the State, and in some remarks on its present and future prospects.

As early as the year 1694 the attention of the Province was directed to this important subject, and in 1696 we find a law passed, entitled, "A petitionary act for the establishing of Free Schools, and for incorporating King William's College, at Annapolis." Here we find the germ of our present system of county academies and colleges. By the provisions of this act the Visitors and Trustees of King William's College were required to establish schools in each county, successively, as their