

surplus funds should enable them to make an appropriation of one hundred and twenty pounds to each. A revenue for the support of education was soon after raised, by imposing duties on certain articles imported and exported from the Province by non-residents, and on slaves and servants imported. This school was also authorised to receive legacies and donations from individuals; and accordingly we find a munificent bequest, to carry out the design and principles of this institution, made by Thomas Smithson, a gentleman of Talbot County, a striking coincidence of the name with that of the munificent donor of the Smithsonian legacy to the District of Columbia.

Impatient of the tardy operations of this institution, (for the record does not inform us of any school established by it,) the Legislature passed an act in 1723, directing all moneys accruing from the beforementioned sources of revenue, and all moneys in the hands of the Treasurer for such purpose, to be divided into twelve equal parts, according to the number of counties then in the State, and to be distributed equally among them for the purpose of establishing a free school in each; and by the same act Trustees and Visitors were appointed for each school so to be established, with a provision very similar, as it respects poor children, to that contained in the act of 1823, chap. 141.

How those institutions were supported when the revenue ceased, by the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and until 1799, we are uninformed. In this year there were appropriations made to several academies, of \$800 annually. A like sum, with but two exceptions, has been since granted to every county, from the general revenue of the State. The Committee would here beg leave to remark, that they have with regret found themselves compelled to report unfavorably upon several petitions for donations to academies, in consequence of the restricted means of the treasury, and a due regard to the existing equality of donations to the several counties, but in no instance have they discharged this duty more reluctantly than in case of the petition of the Elk Ridge Landing Lyceum, an institution which, for its zeal, enterprize and usefulness in the promotion of the cause of literature in its vicinity, appears deserving of the highest encomium.

Convinced of the utter inadequacy of this system of education, to supply the wants of the people at large, in 1813, with a view to expand and diffuse its benefits more generally, the Legislature created and set apart certain revenues to constitute a