

REPORT,

We the undersigned members of the committee on Education instructed to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to establish upon a sure and permanent basis, a Primary School system in this State, ask leave to submit the following views:

That every member of society is eminently benefited by the order, security, virtue and happiness of the society in which he lives; that education is the fountain whence these blessings flow, the foundation of all civilization, the bulwark of liberty, of law and of government, the safeguard of justice and equity. That in proportion to the dissemination of knowledge in society, will that society be prosperous and happy, are facts that will not be questioned in this enlightened age. If then general education renders each individuals life and person more secure, affords protection to his property and promotes his happiness, is he not bound to contribute thereto, both his efforts and means, by the same law that binds him in war to contribute to the general protection and defence, and in peace to the support of law and government. And that which is the duty of one member of society is the duty of all. And as all the citizens of Maryland are but one large society, who have entered into a compact for the mutual protection of their lives and fortunes, for the promotion of order, intelligence, virtue and happiness, and to provide for the general welfare and defence of the whole body politic; and as the constitution of the State is the exponent of that compact, the Governor and members of the Legislature, the agents to carry it out, it is asmuch their duty to provide a system for the equal and general diffusion of knowledge among the people, as it is to provide a system for the equal and general administration of the laws. It is as much their duty to provide the ways and means for the support of education, as it is to provide the ways and means for the support of government, for it is in fact the support of government. If we inquire into the policy of the State in reference to this subject it will appear from the appropriations that have been made to promote education that they have considered it more a matter of gratuity than of a bounden duty. While the Governors of other States devote a