

large portion of their messages to this subject our Governors scarcely allude to it. Whether the fact of their only speaking of the education of the blind is any evidence that their philanthropy is blind, we will leave to those acquainted with the social and political condition of the State, to determine. Well pleased are they, if they can keep the public mind fixed upon gigantic projects of internal improvements, while the legislatures of other States have been appropriating millions to education, the legislature of our own has been exhausting our treasures upon wild schemes of rail roads and canals, the completion of which would require the resources of the whole nation, (we allude to the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal from Baltimore to the Ohio river.) In the mean time they have been shockingly discreet in their appropriations to schools, having only applied the paltry sum of sixty-four thousand dollars to the promotion of general education, a sum entirely inadequate for such a great design. In this we have not included the twenty-one thousand dollars given to the colleges and academies, that being intended more to favour a select few than for any general purpose. And here permit us to express the opinion that these institutions have done more to suppress than to promote general education. They afford the rich and influential the facilities for educating their children. The consequence is that this class having but little direct personal interest in common schools withhold their voice and influence from them. But what has been the result of this dereliction of duty on the part of the State, and this partial use of her funds—a political depravity unknown in civilized communities, a social degradation that is distressing to humanity and a shame to the State. The members of this legislature have come from various sections of the country and they know the abject condition of the people arising from the want of an efficient system of schools. Saving and excepting the cities and towns and some populous, and wealthy sections of the State, and places where academies have been located, the greatest destitution prevails. There are whole neighborhoods almost or altogether destitute of the facilities for acquiring the rudiments of an education. Where it may be said, the bright sun of education never shone to illumine men's minds. Where ignorance holds her court of midnight gloom. Where scarcely a primary star lends a feeble ray. The shameful increase of political depravity is a lamentable evidence of the inefficiency of our school system, vice no longer hides her frightful mien! Bribery and corruption stalk about the streets, and take possession of our polls. There are none in this legislature who do not know, that these vices do exist to an alarming extent there are but few who have not witnessed them, witnessed scenes that maketh the heart of the patriot sick. Is this "the country where liberty has erected her chosen empire?" Is this "the fruition of rational and regulated freedom?"

When the liberties of the State are at the subserviency of the purse, the united voice of thousands of our fellow-citizens come up to us. It comes from every nook and corner of our land, a cry