

pecuniary aid to keep in existence and useful operation the oldest charitable and humane institution in the State of Maryland. *Non immemor tanti beneficii!*

It is not improbable that some members of your Honorable Body, men, too, of good hearts and liberal minds, will hesitate, if not seriously demur to a measure they will admit to be important, and opening strong claims on their efficient support and official action, but who will urge the large indebtedness of the State as an argument against new plans for the application of the public funds. I respect their cautiousness and hesitation. The monetary obligations of the State are heavy; taxation is already onerous; but will these be lessened by the omission to provide by creating a State Hospital for the Insane of the State, for those *who must be supported*, in some way, during the period of their natural lives. In hundreds of cases, if not thousands, it rests on *your* decision, Legislators of Maryland, whether this shall be accomplished at a *heavy* or *light* cost to the State. The time-worn adage,—"Honesty is the best policy," Maryland has engraven on her shield, and the citizens stand firm, as honest men, on the strong rock of Integrity, honored and honorable, each lends his strength to redeem the State from the heavy burthens of her debt. And is the rich man less affluent, or the poor man the poorer, for coming up boldly to this work? No, no, they have struck the vein of the pure gold of virtue, and are enriched by treasures that "moth and rust do not corrupt." And does the legislator argue that being true to the principles of honesty, he may stand acquitted of other obligations? No, there is another law to which he will pay tribute;—in "doing justice," he will "*remember mercy.*" And, again, he will not consent that sister States, younger and feebler, by reason of earlier years, should take precedence of his maternal Maryland. See Alabama—honest and resolved, she provides for full payment of her monetary obligations, and at the same time assumes cheerfully the debt she owes humanity; owning the wardship of her insane children—she appropriates \$100,000 00 for a State Hospital, and is earnest only to advance to completion the work so well and wisely commenced. Look at Indiana—noble, clear-sighted Indiana—honest and true; liberal and wise!—But few years since, Indiana made provision for the gradual payment of nearly twelve millions of dollars of her public debt, and being instructed in the necessity of timely provision for the insane, the deaf mutes and the blind within her borders,—she adopted a wise and noble policy, equally prudent and humane; and levied a special tax for the erection of edifices for the insane, for the deaf mute and the blind, at a cost of more than \$200,000, and provided for the ample support of all these; and a section in the new Constitution lays down a principle, and establishes a law for the perpetual support of these three charities by the State.

There, in the young State of Indiana, almost within the