

at the same time that we shall greatly extend our inland trade, always more important to a country than its foreign traffick.

Notwithstanding the great advantages Maryland will, obviously, derive from those works, they possess more of a national than local character, and we have no doubt will receive the fostering aid of the national government, which has heretofore been so wisely extended to works of a similar nature, though of minor importance.

Roads and canals are as essential to the growth and prosperity of a country, as arteries are to the health and vigour of the human body. They facilitate intercourse, bring citizens of remote districts together, and thereby remove local prejudices, and diffuse wealth and comfort thro' the land, by affording a cheap and easy interchange of the surplus productions of one section of the country for those of another.

You will receive, herewith, Doctor Howard's report of the survey of a route for a canal from the Potomac to Baltimore, and of an examination of the country towards this city, with a view of connecting it with the proposed canal. The execution of this survey and examination is highly creditable to that enlightened and worthy citizen, and it contains information very desirable to be possessed both by the general and state governments, which can be resorted to for practical purposes, either at the present or any future period. It is very gratifying to observe, that the United States topographical engineers are so freely detailed on works of this sort. This corps consists principally of graduates from that invaluable military school at West Point; and were no other advantages to be derived from that highly interesting national institution, than the extensive surveys they have been engaged in making thro' the country, the republic would be amply remunerated for all the expense attending the establishment.

We regret to have to communicate that the militia are in a state of great deterioration, and that nothing short of the invigorating hand of the legislature can make them what they ought to be. We have been looking to congress some time for a general system; and under its direction considerable efforts have been made to collect information, and to obtain the opinions of intelligent military officers upon the subject. The present session may, probably, produce something decisive in relation thereto.

We must again call your attention to the all important subject of education. The law for the establishment of Primary Schools, so well received by the people, is believed to be so defective that but a very partial attempt has been made to carry it into effect; and without revision and material amendment it will be useless. So much depends upon the