

ing the good and doubling the account of the silver.

Let the gentleman, if he desires to defeat the thing, take the broad ground that education is not desirable in the State of Maryland. Let him take the ground that if we do inaugurate a system of education it is not desirable to pay the instruments that are to carry it out. Let him fight the question on its own merits.

There is no question, but the bulk of the counties and the bulk of the people of the State of Maryland, represented upon this floor, are earnestly agreed that their poor shall be educated—that the time shall cease when one-fifth of the population of Maryland cannot read the laws that are made—when one-fifth of the population of Maryland is liable to be led away by the tongue of any specious man who may choose to tell them that such and such is law. It is time you were beginning to strike out of statistics the fact that one-fifth of the people are in the blackness of ignorance. But it strikes me that statistics are ignored—that the history of the past is ignored, and the promise of the future is made light of by gentlemen here. They touch not the merits of the question, but attempt to appeal to the old idea that you are loading your people with taxes.

They have seen that from the portion of the State which pays your taxes no such appeal comes here—that from the portion of the State where the bulk of the expense is to fall no word of remonstrance has reached this body. But the high honor is reserved to Anne Arundel, through her representatives, to tell the rest of the State of Maryland that this is a grievous burden. I deny that the proportion of taxes paid by that county is so great as to give to her any controlling voice. Certainly you would have expected the cry of heavy taxation rather to be raised by the portion of the State which pays half your tax and will pay half of this. One would certainly have expected it from some of the large counties where the taxes are to be paid, but the remonstrance has not so come. There is nothing to spread the light of education in this portion of the State that they are not willing to pay a fair price for, to aid what they believe to be vital to the interests of the State.

There are men enough in the State that believe that upon the education of your people you must depend for good laws, good judges, and good legislators. There are, I hope, enough people in the State who do not hold that ignorance for the masses is the best form of government—who do not believe that you progress to the highest development of human nature just in proportion as you keep in ignorance the mass of the people of the State.

I did suppose if the gentleman wanted to

go into the question of taxes again this morning, he would have brought up some new light; that he would have brought up some clear, new statement; that he would at least have added something which would have commended it to all reasonable men to sustain the proposition he would have advanced. The gentleman has stated upon this floor time and again, that he was opposed to the policy of loading your constitution with legislative enactments; yet he here desires and proposes to force the legislature to do a thing the legislature has always had the power to do; and against the willingness of the legislature to do which I have heard no intimation from any gentleman except the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller.) I have heard him argue that you must leave out propositions that are for the interest of the people, because you are loading the constitution; but now he proposes to put in a thing which he hopes will destroy the effect of a thing which is for their interest, and for that he is willing to encumber your constitution with any amount of legislative enactment.

He burns with no steady light; but is bright and dark by turns. When the same arguments which he advances under one set of circumstances, he repudiates to-day, it is but fair to doubt whether his desire is to secure to these people a good common school education. I believe the gentleman said last night that he should vote against the whole constitution, notwithstanding the benefits it might secure. Therefore I much question the advisability of paying regard to the amendments that come from men who do not hesitate to declare their hostility to the whole constitution that we have made and their intention and endeavor to defeat it. I question if suggestions made by those who are in favor of it, and intend to do all they can to secure its ratification by the people, are not entitled to more weight. It is not human nature to perfect a thing that we do not desire; and I give to the gentleman the credit to believe that it would cause him more pain to vote against and to endeavor to secure the condemnation of a perfected constitution than of an imperfect one. I am not willing to believe that wantonly he would perfect the symmetry of a building, and when it should be perfect he would ruthlessly proceed to tear it down.

It is well occasionally to take a common sense view of propositions. It is well enough sometimes to consider the source from whence propositions come. It is especially desirable to see that when statistics are offered, they should take in the whole question. I repeat, that in his statement of what you have paid upon the \$100, he has ignored the fact that half of it you paid last year to the State, and more than the other half you have each paid in your respective counties, and paid it too for what has been but little benefit to the State. I have