

I have argued this matter in private upon some of my friends upon the other side of the house. That it is the truth they cannot possibly deny. But the answering argument is: let the future take care of itself. Let us do the best that we can for ourselves in this day, and let the future take care of itself. What a doctrine! What a principle upon which public legislators should act; or men in any capacity whatever! If you have little ones climbing upon your knee to-day, why are you laboring and toiling? Is it not that in the coming time, twenty years hence, when your head is getting white, that they may enjoy such blessings as you may be able to win for them? Why have men in every great crisis of the history of the world, borne the heat and burden of war and strife? Suppose the men of old days, the men who were here in this hall in 1776, had said: sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, and let the coming time take care of itself, where would have been your country? Where would have been that great nationality of which you have been so justly proud? Where would have been that happiness, that prosperity which you have enjoyed? It would never have had an existence. If our fathers had said, we cannot bear the evil of to-day; let the tyranny continue, you would have been born serfs and not freemen. It is not in that way that men act. It is not upon such grounds that men fit to be legislators for mankind, practice.

I did not rise to say, but it is an important fact, and I challenge gentlemen to the mathematical refutation of it, that beyond all cavil within twenty years from this day, in adopting this system, we rid the people of Maryland from taxation wholly and entirely upon the subject of public schools; and we have a fund in our treasury of six millions of dollars to be devoted to public education. Take your slates and try the question. In less than twenty years—Were there no such thing as interest, look at the result. We propose to raise a sinking fund of \$300,000 annually. In twenty years, if there were no such thing as profitable investment by the financial agents of the government upon interest, and compound interest, in twenty years that would amount to six millions. But taking this matter as it practically exists, make your calculations; \$300,000 for the first year, and interest upon that, compounding it year in and year out, as you go along, and I believe you will find your sinking fund established in less than fifteen years. And just so soon as you have that, your people will be relieved from all taxation whatsoever for this purpose, unless the people, fifteen years hence, in love with a proper educational system, reaping its fruits, shall choose, in their liberality to make the fund still greater; and I believe they will do it.—But suppose there should be no such legislation upon the subject, I put it to gentlemen whether this article as it stands does not in-

sure with mathematical certainty, that within fifteen or twenty years we shall be rid of taxation upon this subject, with a clear educational fund of six millions of dollars.

How are we going on? Every year that we live there are 15 or 16 cents on the \$100 imposed in some of the counties, as a fair average of what is being paid for the support of common schools, and you can go on paying it for a thousand years, and you will never be a whit better off than to-day. You will never be rid of taxation. I do not know how any friend can calculate who argues that this section increases onerously the taxation of this State for no purpose. Let me ask any candid gentlemen here, is it not a grand and glorious object to attain in less than twenty years, that you shall have a school fund of six millions of dollars to be devoted to the education of your youth? Is it not another grand and glorious object, that in twenty years the people shall be rid of taxation upon the subject of public schools? It is in the power of gentlemen this day to decree that that state of facts shall exist; that in twenty years from this time Maryland shall have a school fund of six millions, and no tax to be paid for public schools, but free education for every child within the limits of the State, from the mountains of Allegany down to the waves of the Atlantic. Are not these grand and glorious objects to be achieved by an addition by mathematical calculation of less than one-twentieth of one per cent.? Why do you hesitate? The people will not grumble about onerous taxation, because you do not impose it upon them. Or if you do they will bless you for the fruits from it. I shall vote for this system, to provide such a fund that taxation shall cease upon the subject. I shall vote for it, believing that it will aid in achieving the grandest and noblest object the State can contemplate, the best work we can accomplish.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I shall vote for the amendment of the gentleman from Anne Arundel, not because I am opposed to the general school system of the State, because I am really in favor of a general school system of the State, if we can secure a perfect system, such a system as will benefit the poor youth of the State. We have in our county, and have had ever since 1837, a free school system. We levy upon the assessable property of the county every year, under the provisions of law as applicable particularly to that county, some eleven or twelve thousand dollars for the support of those schools. Besides, sir, we have a school fund there of some twenty-four or twenty-five thousand dollars, which is placed out at interest, and the interest upon that school fund is yearly applied to this purpose. We then do not desire the change the gentleman proposes here.

It is proposed that this be made a general system, and that the taxes so levied upon the assessable property of the county be paid into