

from the limited space within which the operations of the School are now confined. I do not infer from the recommendation of the able Secretary, that it is his purpose or desire to remove this institution beyond the limits of the State of Maryland. Against any such purpose we should have just cause to enter our most earnest protest. No doubt seems to be entertained as to the entire suitability of the present location, so far as harbor, climate, and other essential features, excepting space, are concerned. The subject of the enlargement of the grounds to any reasonable extent required by the Government, has never been brought officially to the attention of either the authorities of the State or the city of Annapolis. I have reason to believe, from a full and careful examination into this subject, that every requirement of the Secretary may be promptly met, and upon terms quite as satisfactory as could be obtained in any other locality, to say nothing of the heavy outlay which has already been incurred by the Government. So far as the State of Maryland may be able to contribute to this object by the surrender of the Executive mansion, and the grounds adjacent thereto, I have reason to believe that the most liberal spirit would be manifested by the General Assembly; and I am authorized by the authorities of the City of Annapolis to pledge their cordial co-operation in meeting the views of the Department, to whatever extent may be reasonably expected, to put at rest any further agitation upon this subject.

The State of Maryland could not ask or expect that her claims should be regarded in the face of an admitted public necessity; but she does indulge the hope that, with all reasonable difficulties obviated, the School may not be removed from its present location.

Apart from the practical view here presented, there are considerations of historic interest which, all else being equal, should not be entirely disregarded. The City of Annapolis was intimately associated with the most stirring events of the revolutionary era. It was the rendezvous of the great men of that eventful epoch. It was here that the first Convention assembled which led to the adoption of the Federal Constitution; and the memorable ceremonies attending the resignation of his commission, by the Father of his Country, must always invest it with surpassing interest, to the patriotic from every section of the Union. In perpetuating and keeping alive reminiscences so inspiring to the American heart, their influence would not be lost upon the rising generation—receiving their first instruction at this School—who will derive their most useful lessons of patriotism and love of country from the teachings of that early day. I would suggest the appointment of a joint select committee of the two Houses, to treat with the Government upon this subject.