

this donation is designed to create. The Act of Congress stipulates that "any State which may take and claim the benefit of the provisions of this act, shall provide within *five* years, at least not less than one College as described in the fourth section of this act, or the grant to such State shall cease."

Under these circumstances I recommend such legislation as will give the State an interest in the property, as a member of the Corporation, the affairs of the College to be directed by a body of Trustees consisting of the State Board of Education, and seven gentlemen selected by the Stockholders. The detail of this plan will be presented in the memorial of the Stockholders, a memorial which has the hearty approval of the members of the State Board.

## VII.—SCHOOLS FOR COLORED CHILDREN.

By the friends of Universal Education, our system of Public Instruction will not be recognized as such, unless it provides for all the children in the State. Knowledge is better than ignorance, and virtue is better than vice, and therefore it is wise that the opportunity of instruction shall be proffered to all who have minds to be cultivated or moral sentiments to be developed. If ignorance leads to idleness, and crowds our Almshouses with paupers—if vice tends to crime, and fills our Jails and Penitentiaries with wretched convicts—then it is good policy to open the School House to every child whom ignorance may degrade or vice corrupt. It matters not what may be the color of the skin or the land of nativity, the shape of the cranium or the height of the cheek bones, whether the child be of Indian or African, European or Asiatic descent; his ignorance will be a blight and his vice a curse to the community in which he lives.

Whether the pauper be white or black, the tax to support him is equally great, and it costs as much to conduct the trial by which an Americo-African or a Chinese is convicted of crime, as it would were he of the superior race. All the economic arguments, therefore, which are advanced for the education of the white child are equally applicable to the black. They are even more forcible, because the colored race, having been so long degraded by ignorance, need education the more.

We cannot reconcile it to sound judgment that any portion of our thinking population be deprived of instruction; if knowledge be good for any, it is good for all. Yet we record the fact, that Maryland, while devising a uniform system of what is termed Public Instruction, closed the School door against one-fourth of her people, they representing one-half of her laboring population.

We all know that the prosperity of our State and the development of her vast resources depend upon the skill and intelligence of the industrial classes. The labor of Maryland is her wealth. The more persevering and expert the labor, the greater and more valuable its product. The virtue of the laboring class is the strongest incentive to persevering industry, and the only certain assurance that the gains of diligence will be well applied and frugally consumed.