

to the General Government. The importance of the institution cannot be too highly estimated by the people of the State, and I take pleasure in commending it to the fostering care of the General Assembly, by such liberal acts of legislation as may be asked for, from time to time, to extend its usefulness and sustain the well directed efforts of those, to whose care it has been entrusted, in effectually guarding it against annoyance, and protecting the morals of its inmates.

Steps have already been taken to secure suitable accommodations for the Governor of the State, and proposals have been received from a number of property holders in Annapolis, offering grounds both with and without improvements. Some of these it is believed may be acceptable; but the appropriation by the law, being limited to the amount received from the proceeds of the sale of the Executive Mansion, owing to the omission to make any additional appropriation, it has been deemed advisable to recommend a reference of the whole subject to a Joint Select Committee of the two Houses for such action as may be called for, in determining both as to the location, and character of the proposed improvement under such restriction as the General Assembly may think proper to impose.

EDUCATION.

The Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, reached me at so late a date, prior to making up the details of this Message, that I find it impossible to do more than commend it to the careful examination of the General Assembly. It will be found to present a most encouraging and gratifying exhibit of the progress of Education, under the liberal provisions which has been made for the support of this Department. By the able, active and untiring efforts of the officer in charge, a great work has already been accomplished, and we may congratulate the people of the State, that no appropriation is likely to result in more practical and substantial benefits to all classes of our citizens. A careful examination into the details of this system of public instruction, by a Committee of your Honorable Body, would, I am sure, confirm to the fullest extent, the views which I have presented.

St. John's College, after a long period of suspension, has been re-opened again under the most favorable auspices. It is believed that few Institutions in this country offer greater inducements to the youth of our own and other States; and it is earnestly to be hoped that its means of usefulness will be extended by the encouraging aid and liberal patronage of the people of the State.

The Agricultural College has also been reorganized, and will go into operation early in the ensuing spring.