

THE STATE COLLEGES.

The Act of Assembly of 1865 recognized St. John's College, Annapolis; Washington College, Kent County; the Agricultural College, Prince George County, and the Baltimore Female College, as institutions to be fostered by annual State appropriations. To these was added the School of Letters of the University of Maryland, in Baltimore City. The aggregate sum of \$14,200 was annually donated, for which 120 young men and 22 young women, meritorious graduates of the High Schools and Academies, are to receive free instruction and use of text books—being one student each year for every \$100 donated.

I have no report by which to know how far the youth of the State have availed themselves of these beneficent provisions, except from the college for young women, located in Baltimore City, which will be found below.

I am also without the information which will show the nature of the strictly collegiate work accomplished by these institutions, and the plans they propose for elevating the standard of literary and scientific education. We need a higher grade of college instruction. As will appear on another page, many young men leave the State every year to secure that higher culture which they do not find within its limits. Our college system has not yet been systematically developed, though, as a system, it is not in its infancy. The seats of learning at Annapolis and Chestertown are as old as the republic, and we refer with some degree of pride to eminent citizens, living and dead, among their alumni. That this dignity and high culture may be revived, and our citizens turn their attention to the development of all the State colleges should be as industriously sought as it ought to be earnestly desired.

The action of the last General Assembly was encouraging. Liberal appropriations were made, and it is confidently expected that the honor of the State will be maintained by the revival of St. John's College under most favorable auspices.

BALTIMORE FEMALE COLLEGE, *December, 1866.*

To REV. L. VAN BOKKELEN, LL. D.,

Superintendent of Public Instruction,

Dear Sir:

In answer to the inquiries of your note, I beg leave to inform you that the Baltimore Female College was instituted in the year 1849, and was incorporated by the State of Maryland the same year. Its course of instruction is as extensive as that in most colleges for gentlemen. The buildings and other appointments have cost about fifty thousand dollars. They are extensive, and afford ample accommodations for one hundred boarders and one hundred day pupils. Before