

1879

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MARYLAND.

THE following Code of By Laws prepared by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and issued by authority of the State Board of Education sets forth in detail the methods according to which the School System is to be put into harmonious and efficient operation.

The By-Laws are designed as the Complement to the Act providing a Uniform System of Public Schools for the State. Taken together with the Law, the Rules for the Government of teachers and pupils and the various forms contained in the Appendix, you have not only the theory but the complete working plan of the School System.

It is expected that Commissioners and teachers will make themselves thoroughly acquainted not only with the spirit but the letter of the law, and the regulations which are issued under its precepts. It is a system of Free Public Instruction. It recognizes the duty of Universal Education without distinction of caste, or class, or social position. It recognizes the great truth that all men are born free and equal, all have an interest in the public weal. All can become valuable citizens of the State, all can be enlightened and thereby made the contributors to wealth and progress.— Hence it passes by none, however humble. It opens a fountain of knowledge to which the multitudes may come and drink refreshing and invigorating draughts which make glad the heart, and stimulate those longings which encourage the development of a perfect humanity. It reveals a source of light, that will not only cheer but make safe the path of all who walk amid life's perplexities.

The work that opens before the School Commissioner thus becomes most eminently a missionary work, and appeals to him as a patriot and philanthropist to enter upon it with pure, disinterested and earnest motives.

To the Superintendent it is a cause not only of joy, but of devout thankfulness to the great Disposer of events, that the lot has fallen upon such highly qualified and sincerely de-