

unusually large amount of ability and statesmanship is discoverable both in this and the popular branch, comparing favorably with the best days of the commonwealth.

There is much in the late history of the State of which every Marylander may feel justly proud. Rocked as she has been, in the very midst of the angry surges of war, she survives uninjured by the storms which have beaten about her path, and presents to day, as imposing a port, endowed with as large a share of actual prosperity and latent strength as any State of similar geographical limits.

If the extinction of slavery be desirable—and the whole country, notwithstanding the annoyances and embarrassments incident to the change, seems to have acquiesced in its propriety—be it remembered that Maryland was the first to shake off an incubus so stifling to her prosperity; and although she is unprepared now, as she will ever be, for the adoption or sanction of any measure tending to so absurd and revolting a result as the social equality of the races, much has been and will yet be accomplished, towards securing to the colored man the advantages of mental and moral improvement, as well as suitable protection in his person and property. In this connection one act of simple justice remains, without which emancipation becomes a solemn mockery,—namely, the right of testifying in the courts, a right to which every man, of whatever complexion, is justly and indisputably entitled. This privilege, already conceded by a number of States south of us, ought not to be longer delayed as a Legislative measure in our own humane commonwealth.

But one of the chief glories of our State is, unquestionably, her system of public instruction; and it is flattering to the sagacity of our people, that its foundations were being laid at the moment the armies of the sections rallied for deadly conflict upon the soil of a sister State. The collected wisdom of the past enabled its founders to mature a scheme of common school education more free from defects, and possessing greater advantages than attach to other State systems. The abundant good fruits which have already crowned its progress, fully attest its intrinsic value, and its peculiar adaptation to the wants of our population. Mental culture is an essential condition of our liberties—the foundation stone of Republican Government. But it is not the culture of the few to the neglect of the many. No man will have the hardihood to assert that what is good for him is not equally beneficial for all. He cannot, he dare not, separate himself from the mass. To be effective Education must be universal, progressive, generous, complete. It is gratifying to know that the people of Maryland comprehend these truths—that the day of Cadeism no longer exists—that learning is respected for its own sake and the blessings it confers upon society and the State. But it is