

Your Committee visited the Columbian Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, situated near Washington, in the District of Columbia, where the deaf and dumb beneficiaries of this State are now placed, and were most kindly received by the gentlemanly President of that Institution. Our hearts were gladdened in observing the thorough manner in which the unfortunate inmates of the Institution are taught in the various branches of learning, from the A B C class up to the ripened scholars who are going through a regular course of collegiate instruction. The children all appeared cheerful and happy, expressing to your Committee (by writing on their large blackboards) their entire satisfaction with everything in the place, and also their thankfulness to the Legislature of Maryland for their kindness in placing them in such an institution.

Your Committee would also state, that with regard to the alleged commingling of the white and black deaf mutes in this Institution, they do not find the *general reports* on the subject fully substantiated by facts. We found two small negro boys in a room where white children are being instructed ; but they had seats reserved in one corner of the room, so that they receive the same instruction at the same time, and by the same teacher as the white children. The President positively states that he does not require the commingling of the two races in the Institution, but that the *tastes* of some of the white children lead them to associate with these negro boys. But, although there are not two negro boys now there, it is nevertheless true that the President of the Institution has no power to refuse to receive all who apply through the authorities having the control of the Institution. It is the property of, and is supported by the United States Government, and of course, the officers of the Institution can have no *discretionary* powers in receiving into, or in excluding from it any race or class authorized to receive its benefits by Congress.

With the great advantages afforded by the Columbian Institution, and its superior excellence of construction and arrangement in every detail, we would oppose the removal of our deaf and dumb from this Institution by all means, if it were not for the fact that Congress may, at any time, introduce any number of black mutes into it ; and even as it is, your Committee would rather not assume the responsibility of advising what course is best to pursue in regard to this branch of the subject, feeling that it had better be left to the enlightened judgment of this House.

Your Committee also visited the City of Frederick on the same day, and were most kindly received by her municipal officers and citizens. We visited the grounds belonging to the State, formerly used as barracks, and examined the buildings very carefully. This examination leads us to the con-