

tions, with the towering "Sugar Loaf" mountain in the East, and the beautiful "Catoctin" bordering the West. It is probable no place could have been selected for this purpose combining so many advantages and in all respects so desirable.

The buildings now occupied by the institution consist of two long narrow stone buildings, 125 feet long by 16 feet wide, erected during the Revolutionary struggle for independence. Between these is a large temporary wooden building erected during the late war, and used for hospital purposes. These have been fitted up by the Board of Visitors as well as could be done by the limited means placed at their disposal by the State for that purpose.

It was thought several years ago, when the institution was first founded, that these buildings might be made to serve the State for several years to come, but such has been the promptness with which parents have availed themselves of this generous provision made by the State, that the buildings are already overcrowded, while large accessions are shortly expected.

The Institution opened in the summer of 1868 with fifty pupils. They now number seventy-eight, and it is expected by the Board of Visitors that this number will be increased to 125 by the 1st of April next. There are at present—through the omission of the last General Assembly to repeal the law-making provision to that end—in the "Columbia College for the Deaf and Dumb at Washington," more than 20 pupils, beneficiaries of the State, and for whose education the State pays the sum of \$200 each.

It is desirable that this law should be repealed, and these pupils transferred to our own Maryland Institution.

With the present buildings, only the most meagre accommodations can be provided for so large a number. There is also a strong probability of a still larger increase during the next five coming years. By the last census there was found to be in the State of Maryland 480 deaf mutes, and it is estimated that with this mute population there will be an average attendance of 250 pupils when the Institution becomes thoroughly established and prepared to receive them.

In view, therefore, of the inadequacy of the present buildings—their old and dilapidated condition—their want of comfort to the teachers and to the pupils—the increasing numbers of these children of silence, who, with grateful hearts, throw themselves on the bounty of the State—the Board of Visitors desire to erect a new building suitable for the wants of the Institution, and such as shall reflect credit and honor on the State.

They, therefore, earnestly appeal to the General Assembly,