

Any opposition to this movement—and almost every similar work of improvement has been bitterly opposed—cannot be regarded as other than narrow, illiberal and altogether selfish—lacking in a becoming state pride and interest in a great city's advancement.

At present the surrounding portions of Baltimore county shares in many of the advantages enjoyed in the city, without any corresponding return. Our Public School System, costing the city annually sixteen dollars *per capita*, has, in many instances, educated children of Baltimore county, at a cost of four dollars per annum to the parent, and *free of cost* to the county. Our Fire Department, maintained by the city at an annual expense of a quarter of million of dollars, has frequently rendered service in the same county. Our Police Force, requiring an annual expenditure by the city of over a half million dollars, is continually obliged to aid in preserving the peace in the county, sometimes at the additional cost of life. These benefits should not be reaped by those exempt from contributing to their maintenance. Again, our water supply, already in great demand in the county, if generally introduced, would have the effect of largely increasing the value of suburban property. The introduction of gas also, and the complete lighting of the suburban streets, is also a most desirable feature of the proposed annexation.

Your memorialists would further state, that whatever goes to improve and enhance the interests of Baltimore, must be considered, viewing the subject in a practical and comprehensive light, as being of at least equal advantage to both county and State; and that no petty dwarfing policy which permits the advantages of the city to be secured by the county without cost, should be allowed to stand in the way of its natural progress. Other cities have outstripped Baltimore, chiefly because we have been hemmed in by a narrow policy, which we pray the General Assembly now to obliterate, and to carry out in its true intent the legend of the Great Seal of our State—"Crescite et Multiplicamini." And your memorialists will ever pray.

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