

tributed. And the injunction of the Constitution, "that every person in the State ought to contribute his proportion of the public taxes for the support of the government, according to his actual worth in real and personal property," would be more faithfully observed.

Pardon me for calling your attention briefly to one other important subject of legislation, which may be considered by you during the session; I refer to the World's Columbian Exposition, which is likely to be the most important event in the history of this country during my administration. The practical good that may be accomplished by the success of the exposition can scarcely be estimated at this time. I speak not of the mere sentiment that is awakened by the thought that it is the design to celebrate an event which gave to the world a new continent, and to us, in the fullness of time, a country and a home great and happy, beyond the dreams of those whose eyes first looked out upon our shores. But I rather refer now in the practical thought of the day, to the material advantages to be derived from a proper exhibit of our productions, in contrast with those of other States and countries. We are citizens of a great commonwealth; there is not one embraced within the borders of this country that can better afford to place on exhibition the resources with which the Almighty has blessed her. Not only will our sister States participate in this celebration, but many of the most important foreign countries will be represented.

Large sums of money have already been appropriated, and can we, of Maryland, afford to be absent when interest and patriotism unite in demanding our presence?

I cannot close this address without offering my congratulations to all parties upon securing an election system which has met with such general approval from all sections of the State; and, although in the nature of an experiment, and may possibly need some improvement, the good resulting from it is now established, and it only remains for this General Assembly to improve its provisions, if possible, and to extend the system to the nine counties of the State which are now excepted.