

To the Honorable,

*The Legislature of Maryland.*

GENTLEMEN:—I hope it will not be considered an improper liberty for one of your constituents to offer a few crude suggestions on the important subject of Education. I have no personal or pecuniary interest to subserve either for myself or for any one and no other motive than a desire to aid in advancing the most important cause in our State.

In common with many who are parents and trustees in our Primary Schools and Academies. I am deeply impressed with the defects of most of our Schools and the necessity of adopting some mode of providing a supply of *Teachers* of the highest order and whose system of instruction and discipline will be of the best kind.

The best system is of little value unless administered by *competent officers*.

The only certain mode of procuring these is to educate them expressly for the purpose, and if this can be done both well and cheaply the mode of doing it cannot be a bad one.

Among the few institutions in the country in which the highest degree of efficiency has been attained, there are three which are pre-eminent above all others. These are the United States Military Academy at West Point, the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Virginia. In all of these the system is the same and has been copied from the Polytechnic School of France.

It is a system of minute and rigid accountability, where merit is sure to be rewarded and demerit sure to be punished, and has proved both in Europe and America more perfect than any other system.

"The discipline which teaches a youth to have respect to *little things* and fixes his principles as a *habit*, by inculcating that no duty is too trifling to be neglected, no offence too light to be overlooked, will do more to qualify him for the active duties of life than any thing else."

To Virginia, the mother of so many great men, belongs the honor of being the first to adapt this system to a State institution and to show that every State can have, in addition to its other institutions, a West Point of its own.

That whilst a portion of its youths are provided with the best