

devised in our own country—which is so well adapted to its peculiar wants and so eminently calculated to inspire a high degree of true patriotism—may without impropriety be emphatically denominated “The American Plan of Education.” What more beautiful illustration of the principles of our Federal Government than to see a band of youths preparing to maintain the honor of their own State both in peace and war, and at the same time rallying under the glorious banner of our common country.

In the various departments of civil life the graduates of West Point have not been wanting in the performance of those duties which constitute the useful member of society and the good citizen. A record is kept and published by the Government which shows how those who have retired from the service have been employed. The Senate of the United States, the Supreme Bench, the Foreign Legations, the Cabinet and the Church all unite in bearing testimony to the value of this Institution. And yet West Point never attained a high degree of excellence until the General Government sent Col. Thayer to France to be educated expressly for the office of Superintendent.

The Virginia Institute has been made by employing graduates of West Point, and any State may attain the same result by employing the same means.

A MARYLANDER.

January, 1856.