

Mr. Graves from the committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill entitled, an act in relation to the Maryland Penitentiary;

Read the first and by special order the second time, passed and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Buchanan submitted the following message:

*By the House of Delegates,*

*February 28th, 1842.*

*Gentlemen of the Senate:*

We herewith return to your honorable body the bill entitled, "an act for the encouragement of free schools in Allegany county," and for other purposes, and respectfully request that you will reconsider and pass the same.

We deem it due to your honorable body, to state the facts which induced this House to pass this bill. For some time previously to the meeting of the present Legislature, notice was given, in at least one of the newspapers of Allegany county, that application would be made during the present session, praying the passage of a law authorising a transfer of the fund now given by the State to the academy in the town of Cumberland, to the common schools fund of Allegany county. The petition for that purpose was published and circulated in all parts of that county, and every opportunity was afforded to those, if any could be found, who were opposed to this measure, to get up and forward to the Legislature a counter petition; public notice was given in the early part of the present session, that petitions praying a transfer of said fund, had been presented to the House of Delegates, and if any objections existed in said county to this measure, that those opposed to it should send on their remonstrance. Petitions from the town of Cumberland, and from every election district in the county, signed by two hundred and seventy citizens of said county—including in the number, many of the most intelligent and worthy citizens, have been laid before this House, praying for the change. The entire delegation from said county, on this floor, have urged and do still pray for the same, believing as all of them do, that it would be productive of the most beneficial results to the cause of education in that county.

It will certainly not be denied that this fund has been granted or set apart for the laudable purpose of promoting the cause of science, and the different branches of education, in the several counties of the State. That the benevolent founders of that law never intended that it should be exclusive or circumscribed in its advantages, but that it should be so disposed of by each county, as to diffuse its benefits among the whole people, and not be confined to a single town or neighborhood.

The repeated acts of the General Assembly, clearly indicate that this fund should not be applied exclusively to the academy in the county town, but that it should be divided so as to foster and encourage schools in every portion of the county.

In Baltimore county, the fund is divided among four different schools. In Carroll, it is given to six. In Caroline, to two. In Calvert, to three. In Dorchester, to two. In Harford, to three.