

had taken pains accurately to inform himself on this subject, the very intelligent Superintendent of the District of Columbia Institution for the deaf, dumb and blind, that Maryland was actually educating, in proportion to her population, a larger per centage of blind children than any other State. Having for many years had in operation a Public School system, with a view of placing within the reach of all children within her borders the benefits of a good education, the State in the same spirit early recognized the claims upon her protection of those who are prevented by bodily infirmity from availing themselves of the advantages held out to their seeing comrades, and provided for the instruction of her indigent blind children in an institution in a neighboring State until the Maryland Institution was organized.

Besides the annual appropriations for the education of her beneficiaries, she has at different times given the Institution thirty-one thousand dollars, which amount, increased by large private contributions, has placed it in possession of the property described on a preceding page. It has been shown that but about \$15,000 of these investments, together with the recent appropriation by the city, can now be made available for building purposes. Such an additional appropriation on the part of the State as may be needed to insure the early completion of the building is therefore respectfully asked for, together with an increase of the rate of annual appropriation for each beneficiary from \$200 to \$300, an increase only commensurate with the advance which has taken place in the prices of all articles of domestic consumption. By a careful estimate made by the Superintendent of the cost of supporting and educating each pupil, it appears that for the year 1863 this cost amounted to \$266.80, and for the year 1864 to \$286.28, thus greatly exceeding for the past two years the allowance granted by the State.

The Institution has probably always spent upon the children confided to it more than the stipulated sum granted by the State for each beneficiary, and has been enabled to do so principally in former years by the aid of contributions from individuals, the sum of which may be valued as equal to not less than two-thirds of the whole amount of State donations. Such contributions were very small during the past year, and consequently the pressure of increased prices in every department has been more severely felt.

It should be observed that blind children are not only more helpless, and therefore more dependent at all times upon the watchfulness of those placed in charge of them, but also in their education, the mode of instruction, which is principally oral, involves the devotion of more of each teacher's time, and consequently the allotment of more teachers in proportion to the number of pupils, than even to the deaf and dumb,