

The plan herewith submitted is designed to embrace a complete System of Public Instruction, beginning with the Primary School, progressing through the Grammar School to the County High School, in which young men are to be prepared for the State Colleges, whence they pass to the Schools of Medicine or Law, or to the practical duties of active business.

It is expected to add to this System, as the crowning feature, the Lectures of the Peabody Institute, to be delivered by men eminent in the highest departments of Art, Literature and Science, and to present to our young men opportunities for mental culture enjoyed by few, and surpassed by none, in any portion of our Union.

Thus we will have within our own borders, fostered by public money, and directed by the wisdom of the highest official authority, a complete System of Instruction, so aided by liberal provisions for Free Tuition and Free Scholarships that talent will never starve. It will be manifest to every youth, whether blessed with wealth or possessing only the treasure of brilliant intellect and persevering industry, that the way is open to him by which he can reach the highest attainments of knowledge, and serve the State with the expanded powers of a mind which else might have been dwarfed into worthlessness or perverted by vice.

The noblest wealth of the State will be developed for the Public weal, the wealth of intellect, which, because of our sins of omission, has never yet been cultivated, and like our Mines, our Forests, our Waters and our Soil has not yielded its increase.

To correct, perchance atone for the errors of the past, it is proposed to establish at once a thorough System, perhaps a Model System. Maryland has no time for gradual development. By one volition she can attain that which has cost her Sister States years of experiment to secure. She has taken her place among the Commonwealths that proclaim Universal Freedom, why not rank also with those that provide Universal Education? Not the Education which halts before the door of the Primary School, but marches on; takes the poorest youth whom God has endowed with intel-