

We ask four millions of dollars to pay men to go into the field and break down the strongholds of Treason and Ignorance. Perhaps half that sum spent in enlightening the human mind and diffusing sound principles of morality would have saved us all this war and desolation, and these millions of money. Men vote money by millions to crush an evil, but will not give hundreds to prevent the growth of evil. It is easier to pull out the lion's teeth when he is young, than when he roams king of the forest. It is easier by sound Education to prevent men from developing into criminals, than to convert them when they have graduated in crime. Hence to teach children to do right will be a cheaper and more convenient process, than to force them to do right after they have been trained to do wrong.

The answer to our query, "What is a thorough System of Public Instruction worth?" is, "It is worth more than the money we give to punish men for doing wrong." It is worth more than the expenditure for Courts and Jails, Penitentiaries, Alms-houses, Policemen, Sheriffs and the whole equipment for the punishment and restraint of the vice and crime which ignorance begets.

Are we ready to secure this System of Public Instruction by paying for it? Here it is that the sincerity of our people is to be tested. If they fail to come up to the standard of their duty, if they are determined to count the dollars and cents, if they continue to be penny-wise and pound-foolish, of course the system fails; and fails because the people do not wish it, for if they really desire it they will be ready to pay for it.

It is not my province to exhibit the resources of Maryland, but Maryland is rich enough to sustain her Public Schools upon the most extended and efficient plan. She is rich enough to be munificent. And if her ordinary sources of Revenue do not reach our wants, the waters of our Bay and Rivers and Creeks contain wealth enough to Educate all our children.

Legislators are invoked to be liberal in this noblest of Public Works, to be liberal even to what may to our present dim vision seem rashness, a rashness which the next