

championship will be offered. Perhaps yet more may be done through the instrumentality of wealthy men of Maryland, by appropriating money for prizes and medals, which will evidence their zeal and encourage the youth of the State, perhaps aid them in the pursuit of high literary and scientific attainment.

TITLE VII. CHAPTER I. PAGE 66.

Maryland has given freedom to or removed the stain of degraded servility from more than one-fourth of her people. It remains for her to vindicate the policy and humanity of this act of emancipation, by fitting its recipients for their new privileges and obligations. Shall we leave these colored people in ignorance and permit them to degenerate until they become worthless and vicious, inmates of Alms-Houses or of Jails? or shall we educate them, make them intelligent, virtuous, useful? Upon the action of the General Assembly depends the fact whether freedom shall be fraught with richest blessings, or leave the freedman no better than when he was a slave, unless he avails himself of his new facilities for change of residence and leaves us for a more favored latitude.

I have no doubt as to what duty demands, no doubt but that duty will be our guide. These freedmen and those who have been degraded because of the same color as the slave, must be educated; they must be made intelligent and skilful, according to their capacity; they must have every opportunity that intelligent legislation and a sense of moral obligation can give them. It is their right as much as that of white children, for they have to do their part to develop the resources of the State, and they have to bear their full proportion of taxation upon every dollar of property which they own or may earn. Hence it is proposed, that they shall have Schools—Schools adapted to their wants—Schools as good as any in the State, and have a fair opportunity to show what they can do when they have a fair chance.

SEC. 3. Private benevolence has commenced the work which properly belongs to the State, and agencies are now