

states, will be wanted for many years to come, and we do not regard it as at all certain that it will ever be required by the General Government, unless, perhaps, some extraordinary event, such as a foreign war, shall render the demand for it of a pressing and indispensable character. Unless some such contingency should happen, we are firmly persuaded that its recall to the coffers of the United States' treasury should be resisted by the representatives of the people of the states, and we have no doubt this will be done. Under these circumstances, any system of education based upon the perpetuity of this fund, will be most likely to continue through a protracted series of years, and in this light it becomes a matter demanding the most serious consideration and judicious arrangement. But although the permanent continuance of this fund among the states, is a proposition which in our opinion may be relied upon with much confidence, yet it will be necessary that it should be so invested that whenever its repayment shall be called for, it may be met with that promptness of execution which should ever characterise the engagements of a sovereign state, and which is so indispensable to her character and credit. It was with a view to the attainment of this most desirable object, that we suggested the propriety of making provision for the annual outlay of the interest only; not deeming the expenditure of any portion of the principal, under the existing law of Congress, as expedient or proper.

Reform in the constitution of the state will constitute another prominent topic for your consideration, and permit us to express the opinion, founded upon mature reflection on the subject, that it is of the highest importance that your present session should not be brought to a close, without the adoption of at least some leading measures, bearing upon this difficult and exciting question. We had the honor of submitting some suggestions on this subject, in the message to the House of Delegates before mentioned, to which we beg leave at this time respectfully to call your attention.

It has become our painful duty to announce to you the death of the Hon. Robert H. Goldsborough, late a representative of this State, in the Senate of the United States. This melancholy event occurred in October last, at his residence on the Eastern Shore. The distinguished char-