

incurred in the management and the disbursement of the moneys which the sale of said scrip may realize. Other conditions of minor importance are attached to the acceptance of the grant, with all of which you will doubtless make yourselves acquainted by an inspection of the Act itself. I presume you will have no difficulty in signifying your acceptance of it. I would also recommend that you at the same time make provision for the sale and transfer of the scrip, and by limiting its sale to some minimum price, or requiring the concurrence of different State officers to effectuate its transfer, guard as far as possible against its sacrifice.

In providing for the agricultural and mechanical instruction which this fund will enable us to secure, an opportunity will be furnished of combining therewith the rudiments of a military education which, as a mere method of scholastic discipline, has for some time past been gradually commending itself to public favor, and becomes in times like these a necessary element of public education.

#### THE MILITIA, &c.

The present condition of our Militia Laws, and the necessity for some immediate and thorough revision of them, will, I hope, attract your early and careful attention. These laws, the result of the legislation of various years, more recently brought together in the Code, present so intricate a mass of rules and regulations that they have come to be regarded, as if by common consent, as little more than a dead letter, and to repeal them all and substitute some simple, intelligible and efficient system is obviously the only plan to be now pursued. As a consequence of this condition of the law, connected possibly with the military organizations called into the service of the General Government, and which have engrossed public attention, and absorbed all other military associations, we are at present almost without any organized militia. Mindful of that admonition of our Constitution that "a well regulated militia is the proper and natural defence of a free government," and reminded as we have been more than once in the past year that our situation constantly exposes us to invasions and raids that we should be the first to repel, we should lose no time in restoring and reorganizing this important element of State power.

The enrollment of the State militia directed by the General Government in 1862, and made then by officers whom I appointed for that purpose, will afford the means of putting immediately into operation any system of organization that you may adopt. That enrollment embraced the names of 95,442 citizens between the ages of 18 and 45, and after deducting