

vidual opinion to meet on common ground, which shall bring order out of the existing chaos.

It is true that some of the Counties have well organized schools ; as good, perhaps, as it is possible for them to have, acting separately and independently ; but they are not comparable to what they would be under a common system, fostered and controlled by the State: a system which begins with the Primary School and terminates with a well endowed University, capable of furnishing all the requirements of the most perfect and finished education. By the adoption of such a system, thousands of dollars which annually go to build up and enrich Institutions of learning beyond our limits, would be expended among the citizens of our own State, and our youths would grow up Marylanders by education and training as well as by ties of birth and kindred. It would relieve us from the necessity of going abroad to procure teachers, for we should find them at home, thoroughly competent and reliable in every respect.

The means for the institution and organization of such a system are now, it is respectfully suggested, within the control of your Honorable Body, and it can be accomplished without imposing any additional burden upon the people. Should the Direct Tax be reduced in accordance with the recommendation before made, what objection could be offered to giving the benefit of that reduction to promote the cause of Common Schools? The tax is so small that no reasonable being could complain of it, and yet this half mill in the dollar would probably yield an annual School Revenue of \$150,000. In a few years more the remaining half mill may be removed and carried over to the School Fund, thus doubling the amount of the annuity from this source. A fixed portion of the amount thus realized might be distributed directly to the Counties, and the surplus permanently invested by the Treasurer in some safe and profitable stock. When the condition of the State shall be such (and we trust the time is not far distant) as to justify her in dispensing with other sources of revenue still further additions may be made to this excellent purpose, and thus an immense fund speedily accumulated