

are each capable of disseminating the knowledge he has thus acquired of military life, while pursuing the ordinary branches of a collegiate education. An additional evidence of the interest felt by the State in this School, is furnished by the fact that the Superintendent was sent abroad, at the expense of the State, to investigate the details of instruction at the Military schools in Europe, and his report, with sundry other reports, and interesting publications, which I have obtained from the able and distinguished Superintendent, are respectfully submitted to the attention of the Legislature. Various reports, made by the distinguished citizens who hold the honorable position of visitors at the Institute, show how successfully the Military branch of instruction can be engrafted upon ordinary college education, without impairing the efficiency of either, while giving a new zest to each. One interesting fact is stated, which furnishes a conclusive answer to an objection sometimes urged, that military schools exert an unfavorable effect upon the character of the young. I allude to the statement that one-fifth of all the graduates have become connected with some of the religious denominations, as communicants, during their stay at the Institute.

No State can have more urgent need to look well to her defences than Maryland. Situated upon the frontier of each section, her soil will be exposed to the risk of abolition forays, as long as the infamous schemes of the traitors at the North shall continue to disturb the public peace, and would be the first battle ground of the sections, if the fell spirit of disunion shall ever prevail in our councils. The most ordinary rules of prudence would suggest a timely preparation in peace for the possibilities of war.

Our State contains a numerous slave population in some counties, far outnumbering the whites. The peculiar features of the country, intersected by bays, and navigable rivers and creeks, frequented by numerous vessels, manned often by lawless individuals, exposes us to depredations upon our property and infractions of our laws, which can only be successfully guarded against by the presence of an organized force, ready to respond to the call of the public authorities.

It would not be asking too much from the Legislature, in behalf of the people of Maryland, to suggest the establishment of a distinct Military Institute in this State. But if this scheme should seem inexpedient at this time, it would surely be within the power of the State to engraft a military branch upon one of the colleges now in operation in our borders, assimilating it, as far as may be, to the Virginia Institute. An adequate appropriation would doubtless secure the services of a southerner, educated at West Point, and competent to give all requisite instructions in the essentials of military education, to the children of the State within our own borders.