

first objects of our affections: let them be also, the first, as well as last objects of our bounty.

In vain do we boast of a government of equal liberty, if a large portion of our fellow citizens be incapable of appreciating its advantages. In vain do we talk of equality, while the light of science sheds its beams upon the minds of a few only of our citizens. In vain do we calculate upon the perpetuity of our free and happy form of government, if those who come after us, shall be too unlettered to learn from the instructive page of history, its origin, and its great comparative advantages. The strength, prosperity, and general well being of all republics, emphatically depend upon the virtue and intelligence of the great body of the people; and in a government so purely republican as ours, where it is not only the right but the duty, of every citizen, at short intervals, to exercise his full and equal share of the sovereign power, it would seem to be peculiarly, the duty of the body politic to take care that every one shall have the means afforded of becoming capable of exercising that power, and performing that duty understandingly. The mental capabilities of her youth, constitute the richest mine; the greatest resource of the state: assuredly then, we should provide that this mine be worked; that this great resource be developed. How often do we see youths of superior natural endowments, who might become, if educated, the pride and ornament of their country, growing up in ignorance and vice, because their parents have the misfortune to be too poor to furnish the means of educating them? and how many instances of this sort, will not our state afford! Superior intellectual capacity is peculiar to no class; to no particular description of persons; and, consequently, is oftener to be found in the cottage, than in the palace—most frequently occurring among the most numerous class.

We earnestly invite your special attention to this all-important subject, in the confident assurance that you will, as far as existing means and circumstances will enable you, promote the great and deeply interesting object.

Reposing, with perfect confidence, upon your patriotism and zeal for the public good, and humbly hoping for a continuation of the divine blessing and favour, we anticipate highly beneficial results to the community from your deliberations, and beg leave, in conclusion, to assure you of the high consideration, and perfect respect with which

We are,

Your obedient servants,

JAMES THOMAS.