

he had no idea that the gentleman would throw out such a mere cobweb. He had always thought and he still did think, that the appropriations for these colleges were unwarranted.

As to the gentleman's construction of the law of contract, which he intimated had been violated, he, [Mr. E.] thought that the gentleman from Kent, would find it a difficult task to have such a contract inserted in the new Constitution. He did not suppose that this Convention would settle the question on the ground that General Washington had subscribed fifty guineas towards the endowment of these colleges. It was certainly a noble example, which he hoped the county of Kent would follow. But he did not wish that a tax should be imposed by the legislature for the purpose of education. Let the people of the counties themselves support their own schools. He was not to be moved by any sarcasms which might be thrown out about the city of Baltimore. He felt pride in Baltimore, in her wealth, her growing population and her spirit of enterprise. And what would the State be without Baltimore? The appropriations which gentlemen here are so desirous to obtain, are not desired by the people, nor are they in accordance with the spirit of the age in which we live. He hoped that a system of education might be established, without the imposition of any tax on the people by the legislature, which would redound to the honor and interests of the State.

Mr. DAVIS desired to say a word only in reply to the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Grason,) who had said that he, (Mr. D.), did not comprehend the language of his colleague's amendment. He admitted that he had no other power of comprehension than the little common sense, the God and nature had given him. Still he believed that he had rightly comprehended the amendment of the gentleman's colleague, (Mr. George,) and the gentleman's colleague, (Mr. Spencer,) had, himself, yesterday admitted, that his, [Mr. D's.,] comprehension of it was correct.

The gentleman from Queen Anne's insisted that the proposition was only intended to exclude corporations from obtaining the public money. But the language of the amendment went further, stating that no *individuals* nor *associations*, as well as corporations, shall have any use of the public money. The children of the State shall have no education, if it is to be given them thro' the medium of a corporation, because corporations are odious to the gentleman. But in the zeal of the gentleman to strike down corporations he also prevents any person from obtaining any benefit from the public money, even for the economical and benevolent purpose of educating the poor children of the State, should it either come through individuals or associations, as well as corporations. How else can it come? He was unable to see. He did not pretend to be a prophet—but in this instance he had proved a true one, for he now saw that the gentleman from Queen Anne's, [Mr. Spencer] was about to vote against his, [Mr. D's.,] amendment. And to relieve the gentleman from Frederick, and those

who voted with him, against an amendment to save something to educate the children of the State, this proposition is now to be rejected.

Mr. SPENCER said, the gentleman from Montgomery had no right to impute to him motives for the course which he might pursue. Had the exposition of his colleague been made yesterday, he would not have voted for the amendment of the gentleman from Montgomery. He then briefly explained the view he took of the amendment of his colleague. His only object was to have a more intelligent proposition offered and adopted.

Mr. GRASON suggested that in the hurry of debate, the attention of the Convention was not sufficiently directed to the language of the proposition. It was never intended to prevent appropriations for the purposes of education, but was merely an inhibition of appropriations for the building of corporations.

Mr. McHENRY explained his understanding of the proposition of the gentleman from Queen Anne's. It prevents the Legislature from contracting loans for the use of corporations, associations or individuals, except for educational purposes. He was disposed to go as far as any one for the support and extension of education by taxation. But he was decidedly opposed to the State's incurring any debt or pledging, in any form, its credit, for any purposes, except in extreme exigencies. He was not disposed to tax posterity for the education of the children of the present day. The men of this generation should not grudge the cost of educating their own and their neighbors' little ones, nor attempt by State loans, or other devices, to transfer to posterity the burdens which are properly our own.

Mr. SHERWOOD, of Baltimore city, desired to say a word or two on the amendment of the gentleman from Montgomery, (Mr. DAVIS) Although he should vote against the proposition, as a part of the article to which it was sought, in his judgment, improperly to be attached, he did not think in doing so, that he would incur the censure of hostility to a general system of popular education. On the contrary, it was his attachment to the system, and his desire for its further success, that prompted his opposition to the amendment at this time. He had been too long the ardent advocate of public instruction, to be now found doing any act to retard its progress, or to weaken its usefulness, by withholding from it, in any proper manner, the fostering care of the State. With emotions of pleasure he contemplated its advancement, and with native pride he saw school-houses dotting every section of the State, like so many beacon lights, to guide the young mind safely into moral and intellectual havens; and he rejoiced to say, that the city of Baltimore was more wealthy in these ornaments than in all her other proud monuments. He, in common with the constituency, which, in part, he represented in this Convention, regarded public education as an indispensable auxiliary to Baltimore's rapidly increasing prosperity; nor will she ever be so unmindful of her duty and interests, as to abandon an experiment which some twenty years of private and public devotion, has