

and to obtain the opinions of intelligent Military Officers upon the subject. The present session may, probably, produce something decisive in relation thereto.

We must again call your attention to the all important subject of Education. The Law for the establishment of primary schools, so well received by the people, is believed to be so defective that but a very partial attempt has been made to carry it into effect, and that without material revision and material amendment it will be useless. So much depends upon the intelligence and just discrimination of our Citizens that unless the benefits of Education shall be generally diffused amongst them, strong apprehensions may be entertained for the durability of our Republican institutions. Our Government essentially depends upon public opinion for its support, and what reliance can be placed on what stability looked for, in the opinions of an uneducated population? Men are rash and inconsiderate, generally, in proportion to their ignorance. We should bear in mind that in this Country, alone, the experiment is now making, whether Man is capable of self Government, and that deeply as we and our posterity are interested in its success, its propriety influenced may be expected not to be confined to us, but to extend to the whole human family.

The donations of the State for purposes of Education, to its Colleges, Academies, and common Schools, amount annually, to about the sum of thirty thousand dollars, and although this appears to be a liberal grant, yet when we take into consideration the importance of the object, we shall, at once see the propriety of extending it to the utmost limits that the resources of the State will justify. It is a lamentable fact that most of our Colleges and Academies, are not on good a footing as they were formerly.

A youth in order to complete his Education has to travel to a distant State, which greatly enhances the expense. A parent could often afford to give his son an Education at a College within the State, which he could not afford to do out of it.

Some further pecuniary aid to St. Johns College, with the improvement in the condition of which you must be well acquainted, and it has advantages which would enable it to vie with any similar institution in the Country. Since our last communication, Washington College, on the Eastern Shore has been burnt, which fact was communicated to the General Assembly at the last Session, in a Memorial praying for aid to rebuild it. The Prayer of the Memorial has not yet been granted, but we hope it will receive your favorable consideration, during the present session.

Experience has satisfied us that some small alterations of the Constitution might be made, which would save us needless trouble, and facilitate the transaction of public business. At present it is required that the Laws be signed by the Governor, in the presence of both Houses of the General Assembly. Was this requisition dispensed with, the Laws authorized to be signed by the Governor, in the Council Chamber, and attested by the Clerk of the Council, it would conform more to the modern improvements in the science of Government, and contribute greatly to the convenience of the Legislature.

The great Seal of the State, we would respectfully suggest might be in charge of the Executive, and we recommend an alteration to that effect, and further that all commission and Executive acts now required to be attested by the Chancellor be attested by the Clerk of the Council. This alteration would relieve the Chancellor from much interruption, and the more appropriate duties of that able and faithful officer and sufficiently arduous without his being diverted therefrom to participate in Executive labors; and it would, at the same