

for that object. We would further suggest the propriety of placing, permanently, at the disposal of the Executive, such funds as may be deemed sufficient to meet contingencies of this sort for the future.

While on this subject we will call your attention to the organization and discipline of the militia of the State, generally. We suggested in our last annual communication, the propriety of "providing more effectually for the enrollment of all the citizens of the State subject to militia duty, and the exercise and instruction of the commissioned Officers in camp and field service," a plan which is yet believed might be carried out in such manner as to afford us all the advantages of a well-organized and well-disciplined militia, without a sacrifice of any portion of the time or convenience of the citizens, generally, or requiring more of the commissioned officers than they would most willingly yield. Out of the City of Baltimore, with few exceptions, we may now be said to have no organized militia. There is scarcely the semblance of organization in the greater portion of the State. Our militia is, or should be, our chief reliance for protection against outrage and violence, and unless they be kept in a state, at least, of partial organization, we must become dependant upon the Federal Government, to a degree utterly incompatible with our character and dignity. Those who hold the greatest stake in the community should be themselves, always, not only willing, but prepared to defend it. Freeman should ever rely upon themselves, alone, for protection and defence; then there would be no fear that the defence of the land would become its opposer. We submit this subject to your consideration, again expressing the earnest hope, that your present Session will not be permitted to pass, without its receiving that deliberate attention its importance seems to demand.

We also endeavoured to press upon the consideration of the Legislature at its last Session, the great importance of providing more effectually, for extending to the children of every citizen the blessings of education; and we cannot now forbear urging it upon you. It would seem to us that the very first object of the solicitude of a Government, instituted for the good of the whole people, and depending for its permanency and ability, to answer the ends of its institution, upon the intelligence, virtue, and attachment of the great body of its constituents, should be the improvement of their moral and intellectual condition, yet but little, comparatively, has been done for this object by the constituted authorities of our State, although, in every other respect, they have been constantly exhibited a most commendable liberality in endeavouring to provide for the general welfare. It cannot be that there exists an apprehension that any reasonable expenditure, which the Legislature, in its wisdom might think proper to incur, for so desirable a purpose, would not meet the approbation of our fellow citizens; for there is not one among them who would not derive from a judicious and well-regulated system of public instruction, directly, or indirectly, benefits more than equivalent to any portion of the expenditure which he might be required to pay. Institutions founded like ours, for wisdom, virtue, require for their guardianship and preservation, knowledge and intelligence. With these we shall always be safe, without them we are immediately threatened; but this knowledge and intelligence...