

institution proposed. I need hardly enlarge, your experience and intelligence will anticipate argument or suggestion. It has its analogy in almost every calling. Professional men do not emerge at once from academic halls. Before they can exercise their profession with a conscientious regard for the interests confided to them they must have devoted years to the study of the great principles which belong especially to their profession. At this day a man is not deemed fully competent (without long practical experience) to tell the earth, until he has acquired some knowledge of the nature of soils, the best means for their improvement, and a general acquaintance with the philosophy of agriculture. Beyond question then, the man to whom the culture of the human intellect is submitted, should be prepared by a special course of training for his work.

In a Normal School, provided as I have intimated it would be, at St. Johns College, the purpose defined by the term would be effectually matured. There the student would learn to teach according to rule, and ultimately that rule would become uniform, throughout the state from rudimentary to the most elaborate tuition.

The material to be furnished for normal school institutions, should consist of a selection of the best and most promising boys in the primary schools, not otherwise determined in their future prospects. The choice might be left to the Orphans Court for the respective Counties, or some competent Board of Examination; one youth being selected by each County and one or more from Baltimore City; these youths to be sent to college where they may be trained for a term of years, carefree and diligently at the expense of the state, and with especial reference to the purposes of tuition in the Common Schools. It is well understood, that the state could exercise no obligatory control over youths thus educated, but the opportunity to secure their services at a remunerative salary and the preference they would have to others, would constitute a natural relation at once equitable, interesting and respectful. The recovery by the state of a large amount of money from the Federal Government, which by the act of a former Legislature, has been already dedicated to the support of primary schools, makes this an auspicious time to initiate the movement which I have thus imperfectly presented, and most cordially commend to your favorable regard.

Maryland Penitentiary.

Herewith I enclose reports made to me by the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, for the years 1855 and 1857. This period has been one of great financial embarrassments to the institution, owing to causes which are fully stated in their reports. The entire destruction by fire of the