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similar Commissioners from other States and to arrange for the completion of that Cemetery and for the apportionment of its cost among the States interested. The Estimate of that cost and the manner of its apportionment are set forth in a report of the proceedings herewith communicated and commended to your favor. It will bring to your attention the necessity of some provision on the part of this State towards defraying her share of the expenses connected with that patriotic purpose. It is only necessary I know to make this suggestion to secure upon your part all that is required. It is not merely that Maryland's dead lie common with those of her loyal sisters deep on that battle ground or that the regiments to which they belonged distinguished themselves by a gallantry worthy of the occasion but the obligation upon us is one of a national character your share of which you would not I am sure hesitate to discharge though our citizens had escaped entirely the casualties of that conflict. We have so far been seldom able to pause in the fearful struggle engaging our attention to pay the proper funeral honors to those who have fallen therein. They still in most cases occupy the shallow graves which were all that the exigencies of battle would allow or - a sight more melancholy still - the victims of disease and wounds repose side by side around all our Hospital sites where the rough stake and mouldering turf denote their last resting place, but however they may have fallen or wherever they may rest you I know will not fail to appreciate such sacrifices or to embrace every occasion to honor the memory of the men who thus perishing to preserve their country have earned a place in its history beside those who in our Revolutionary era died to create it.

Public Education

I trust that during your present session time enough may be spared from your other duties to ensure the proper consideration of one that yields to none in the importance of the interests it involves. The subject of some uniform and efficient state system of public education has on various occasions I believe been brought to the notice of former legislatures but probably because such systems are comparatively slow in their operations and the benefits resulting from them not immediately palpable but requiring time for their full development their consideration has not heretofore commanded that prompt attention which their intrinsic importance deserves. No enterprise however in which a State can engage is so certain of profitable and permanent results as well directed efforts in such a cause. The want of some such proper system in the southern portion of our Country has in my opinion in a great measure led to the calamities now enduring, for however we may speculate as to the pretended or the actual cause of the rebellion, the influence of unscrupulous leaders over the masses of the people was the immediate cause of its successful outbreak.