

of the state known to such indigent blind persons as might be prepared to receive its advantages

Accordingly some three or four applications have been made from Cumberland & Hallowell - and they have been passed upon by our Board - and one I learn (Brown) in Cumberland has already received your Excellency's warrant for admission

I have just learned however that your Excellency has some doubt on the subject & wd like the subject into further consideration

As any suspension of the Law at this time would embarrass us, in the reception of the cases already passed upon & prepared to come, I hope a favorable decision may be made to at an early day

It will be noticed that the last law simply extends the amount which had been paid for several years from the same fund.

I would suggest however that where an applicant is over 21, as in the case of Cradley, the time of his stay here be limited to two years for the purpose of learning a trade. This is the condition we impose on all adults. In that time they can do something to support themselves either here or at home and thus save them from becoming a public charge. This is the great object of the Institution in all cases

I have knowledge of five young blind persons from your state (without Cradley) whose case might be suspended for the present.

Hoping to hear from you & apologizing for their long troubling you

I remain very respectfully

John Excellency's

Obt Serv^t

(signed)

William Chapin

Principal

State Department

Annapolis 14 Nov^r 1830

Dear Sir

I duly received your letter of the 4th of October referring to the act of the Legislature of this State passed at its last session for the education of the blind and to certain difficulties which as you were correctly informed rested upon my mind as to its effect and operation. Entertaining serious doubts whether the act in question, in consequence of a want of proper information on the part of the individual by whom it was drafted did not absolutely withdraw the whole fund, before that paid, appropriated to the education of the blind, instead of enlarging the benefits intended to be secured by previous legislation I deemed it my duty to consult the opinion of counsel upon the subject, before coming to a certain conclusion. The opinion of Mr. Nelson, one of our most distinguished lawyers, was accordingly asked and has been received within a few days at this Department. You will therefore perceive the cause of the delay in the acknowledgment of your letter. Herewith I send you a copy of the opinion from which

(you)