

The accompanying Reports from the respective Presidents of the Baltimore and Ohio, and the Susquehanna Rail Roads, and from the clerk of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company, will give you all necessary and useful information in relation to those important public enterprises.

The Executive cannot dismiss this subject without offering their congratulations to the general assembly, and through them to their fellow citizens of Maryland, upon the completion of navigable intercourse between the Bays of Chesapeake and Delaware, by the Cross Cut Canal. This stupendous work evinces in the strongest light, the science by which it has been directed, and the energy and perseverance with which it has been executed; and it now bids fair to realize every convenience, profit and natural utility that have been anticipated.

No topic has been more frequently or more earnestly pressed upon the attention of the General Assembly, than that of public education. Such repetition is due to the importance of the subject, and an Executive can scarcely feel that it has fully discharged its duty without continuing to recommend it, until the final accomplishment of the object. A government of opinion like our own, must be directed by the sentiment of its citizens. It is presumed to be founded upon public virtue and public intelligence, and will, inevitably, be rendered ineffectual, or subjected to perpetual danger, without them.

To enlighten the public mind is the first step to chasten it, and moral sentiment can, alone, be inculcated through the medium of Education. Every freeman in the State is a constituent part of the efficient controuling sovereignty; to leave any portion of that sovereignty destitute of the necessary means usefully to discharge the duties required of it, would be an omission in the exercise of that paternal care which such a government owes to such a people. When we consider that in Maryland every citizen of competent age and residence, is endowed, as he should be, with the elective franchise, it appears to us to be the imperative duty of the Legislature, to place the means of education, within the convenient attainment of all. This the people have a right to claim at your hands, and to none can they apply with better assurance of being gratified, than to those who have been selected by their favour, to watch over their interests.

If there be danger in popular elections, as has been conceived by some, the sure correction is to be found in moral instruction. Vice cannot be corrected by law—the severity of punishment has but a momentary influence, and na-