

by his proper title, will attempt to impugn the great truth which they assert.

In the contrariety of opinions amongst men, there will always be found some opposed to the best system that human wisdom can devise; and although it may be said, and the assertion may be maintained upon its intrinsic merit, that *he who would destroy a good system of education, is wholly unworthy of the right of suffrage or of even a place in a free State* it will not be contended that the law of "public instruction," which was enacted at December session 1820, chapter 162, is the best system which could be devised, yet it may be urged in its defence, if defence were necessary, that it is based upon the wisdom of other states, where the happiest consequences have rewarded the enlarged views and extended policy of their enlightened and profound statesmen.

In the continuation of these illustrations, it may be proper, by repetition, to expose an error or misconception, which some inconsiderately, have accepted—It is that the necessary support of the general system will operate as a *tax upon the rich for the benefit of the poor*—this is surely a gross mistake—The system is general, and although the poor will doubtless derive incalculable benefits, the rich will receive the greater gain inasmuch as their greater riches will thence obtain its greatest protection and security, from the best assurance of good government, to wit, the general diffusion of useful knowledge amongst the great body of the people—and it must be observed that this advantage is over and above their full share of intellectual improvement;—and the idea of increased burthens upon the property of the wealthy is also false and mistaken—It has been shown, in a previous number that even admitting that the means be raised, *entirely* by assessments upon the counties, that *very few would pay as much for the superior benefits of improved instruction, as they now pay for a precarious or imperfect course*— But *no increase of taxation is expected.*

"Chastened liberty lives in the voluntary choice of an enlightened people, while arbitrary power depends for its existence upon the slavish fear of an ignorant multitude."

Having adverted to a proposition before Congress, to apportion the avails of the public lands, amongst the States, for the support of common Schools; we are induced to employ the strong arguments of an able memoir, upon that subject to enforce the object of these essays.

It is truly said that a government like ours, not only depends for its *energy and action*, but for its very *existence*.