

communications as requested, either for the information or reflection of the legislature; our task might therefore be completed. Entertaining however, a proper sense of the magnitude of the trust committed to our hands, we beg permission to offer a few suggestions upon such topics of public concern as we may think proper to introduce—at the same time, we are well aware, that there are few subjects of general interest to the state, which have not been adverted to by those who have preceded us; yet, if such should be now presented, we trust, it will not be considered an useless occupation of your time, again to be reminded of them.

There is no subject upon which the patriot and the philanthropist can dwell with a deeper interest, than that of Education. It is one which has often attracted the attention of the Legislature, and we should do injustice to our own feelings, not to entreat their constant and untiring efforts to diffuse its benefits. Its beneficial effects upon the happiness of mankind—its connexion with the comforts of rational beings—and its certain tendency to the permanence of political freedom, producing a knowledge of its blessings, and thereby, a proper appreciation of its value, are truths admitted by all who have intelligence to comprehend them. And to the enlightened representatives of the people of Maryland, it will scarcely be necessary to urge the propriety of appropriating liberally to this object, when the finances of the State will justify the expenditure.

The free school fund has been productive of great benefits, wherever it has been distributed. Many children, within our knowledge, who would otherwise have remained in ignorance from their unfortunate condition in life, have been taught those branches of learning, which may lay the ground work of their future usefulness. And we indulge the pleasing hope, that by the well directed exertions of the Legislature, the time will not be far distant, when no individual in the state, no matter how humble his situation, shall be deprived of the benefits of an education essential to his own happiness, and necessary to make him a useful member of society.

To ameliorate the condition of his fellow men, and to advance them in the comforts and happiness of life, are primary objects with a wise legislator. To effect these objects, his attention must necessarily be drawn to the repression of the vicious propensities of human nature, and of the evil consequences flowing from their indulgence. Among the plans devised by the benevolence of enlightened men, for the punishment of crime, and for the reformation of offenders, an efficient Penitentiary system, stands pre-eminent.