

Legislature, dissatisfied with the slow progress of this institution, divided its revenues, and by one act established a free school for each county, independent of the royal institution. These constituted, as before said, our system of county schools. At the close of the revolutionary struggle this royal institution was abolished and its funds consolidated in those of St. John's College of Annapolis. From that time our county schools constituted our only public source of instruction, occupying, as it were, a middle ground between the crown and the people, but consistent with the democratic spirit of our government, the progress of education was onward. The necessity for popular instruction was felt, and the energy and attention of the public mind directed to the subject. Yet not however until 1825, was there any feasible and approved plan devised and recommended.

The Committee have already given their opinion of that system, and expressed their conviction that it will as speedily as possible be carried into general operation. Before concluding, your Committee would beg to be indulged in a few remarks on the much neglected subject of female education. In casting our eye over the list of those literary institutions which receive the patronage of the State, we are forcibly struck with the fact that there is but one for the purpose of female education. All our Academies, which afford instruction beyond that to be obtained in common schools, are exclusively devoted to the education of boys. The consequence is, that none but the wealthiest citizens can afford more than the most limited education for their daughters, without sending them abroad, or to our cities, where a denser population can better sustain private literary institutions, and this generally at disproportionate pecuniary expense, with great and anxious solicitude enhanced by their distance from the parental eye at this most interesting period of their lives. This latter cause alone frequently induces parents to forego the advantages of a liberal education for their daughters, rather than risque an estrangement of their affections from the domestic ties, too apt to be weakened by protracted absence, or the acquirement of fondness for fashionable extravagance and show, not well suited to their happiness and contentment in the relations of rural life.

The Committee believe that great and inestimable advantages would be conferred on the cause of education in our State, by establishing a system of endowed female seminaries in each county; it would elevate the standard of female knowledge and literature, now too low in our State—excite a greater interest