

ference to this matter. We have spoken of the financial condition of the State. We have contended, and do contend, that it is neither the duty or policy of State, under existing circumstances, to hasten the payment of her debts to the entire neglect of other imperative duties. We contend that the State has the means, ample means under the existing revenue laws, not only to pay the annual interest and current expenses of the year, but will have an annual surplus left, one half of which, annually added to the sinking fund, will meet the future demands of the State, leaving the other half to be applied to the purposes of education.

With these facts before us, and we believe them to be incontrovertible, what excuse can the State give to her neglected and injured children, and to the civilized world, for suffering them to remain in ignorance. She cannot urge "the maintenance of her honor and dignity." She cannot say, that is walking in the stern path of honesty, nor can she plead the stern requisitions of justice. We would admonish gentlemen to beware, lest in their zeal to maintain State pride, they do not draw down upon themselves the inglorious charge of being more proud than just; more regardful of the interest and welfare of foreign bond-holders, than of their own people, more pleased with a proud name abroad, than a good name at home, more mercenary than beneficent.

It is clear, very clear that Maryland has the means, even from her present revenue, to remedy "the imperfections of her educational system," and if she does not grant the relief, it will be the fault of will, and not of power. But, what is proposed to be done? A deferment of action until the debts of the State are paid, postpone it for fifteen years! Is it possible that such a thing can be seriously contemplated? who can give such a stay to his humanity? who can give such a scope to philanthropy? Is this the answer, that we must return to the anxious inquiries? Is this the hope held out to the expecting thousands, who now look up to us for assistance? Is this the response to the "deep feeling," wait fifteen years and we will come to your rescue.

We conclude by asserting, that "no one race of men is possessed of the moral power to entail ignorance upon its successors, that wisdom and justice, good faith and the true interest of the people, will warrant, and does demand an application of some portion of the funds arising from the system of revenue now in operation." That no "consideration of duty or sound policy" would justify the filling of the pockets to the neglect of the heads of "the next generation." But at this late period of the session, and the evident disposition of the house, we are compelled to submit to a mere expression of our opinions, hoping that others may give more character to the subject.

JAMES F. BRAVARD,
T. W. P. RIDER.