

shadow of her Capitol at Indianapolis, stand these monuments of a christian and enlightened age, recording a foremunifience, which, under the circumstances has no paralled, though Illinois, ranging side by side geographically, almost completes a corresponding page in *her* history. Shall Maryland falter, solicited by more urgent incentives to determine her decisions and to quicken her energies?—Surely she will not!

No truth in ethics is more surely established than this;—not one human being, whether of high or low degree, strong or weak, learned or unlearned, conspicuous or humble, old or young, in the full fresh vigor of health, or feeble through weakness, but is vulnerable to the attacks of maniacal insanity. The man of most mighty intellect, the woman endowed with rarest virtues, may in an hour become the beneficiery of humanity;—the hapless ward of heart-stricken kindred, helpless alike to restore and cherish. The precious home no longer offers health-giving influences; the cares and caresses of dearest friends but enhance the miseries of this terrible malady. “Lover and friend it puts far away, and acquaintances into darkness.” The well-organized, well-sustained Hospital alone opens its portals for shelter and relief. The skill which directs appropriate care, here dissipates the delusions which distract; and heals the sickness which other direction could not arrest.

Legislators of Maryland, importunity urged by the sacred voice of unerring Duty, presses this cause upon your notice;—you who fill places of authority,—forget not, amidst the heat of debate, the clash of opinions, and the sometimes strife for political distinctions, forget not the majesty of your station, the dignity and sacredness of that trust confided to you by your constituents; forget not that you have the right and the means of exercising the enobling offices of justice, humanity, and civil obligation. Becoming through your station as legislators, benefactors of the needy, whose mental darkness, through your action, may be dispersed, how many prayers and blessings from grateful hearts will enrich you! As your work on earth shall be measured, and your last hours shall be slowly numbered; when the review of life’s deeds become more and more searching, amidst the lashes of uncompromising memories, how consoling will be the remembrance that of many transactions,—often controlling, transient and outward affairs,—frequently conducting to disquieting results,—possibly sometimes to those of doubtful good, you have accomplished a work whose results of widely diffused benefits, create a light brightening your path through “the dark valley,” and conducting you to those “gates of eternal life” which open upon “the blessed mansions” in which the finite faculties are beyond the reach of blight, and advance continually in knowledge, to perfection!

Respectfully submitted,

D. L. DIX.

ANNAPOLIS, February 24th, 1852.