

tion is veiled in obscurity; no statistical information relative to our system can be obtained, for none are preserved.

The many advantages that would follow from a well arranged annual report on the subject of education, are obvious on the slightest reflection. It is well known to every practical man, that the most valuable lessons are those learned from experience. The interchange of views on the same subject will often lead to the happiest results. Perfection need scarcely ever be looked for in the infancy of any institution; it is only attained by gradual steps; it only advances by the light which is thrown around it by time and experience. The child of five years will be a child at twenty, if deprived of those lessons which an intercourse with his fellow-beings alone can impart. So with a system of education; its progress in the career of usefulness, will be in proportion to the light it gathers from experience. But while the working of the system is hidden from public view; while its practical operation is concealed from public scrutiny, so long is it destined to drag out a weak and ineffectual existence. Errors in any system, to be corrected, must be pointed out; but if there be no medium through which the system can be viewed, the most radical defects must for ever remain unperceived. On the other hand, all the improvements in the system, which experience may have pointed out in one county or section, is lost to the balance of the State. Why pursue the policy on a subject so important as that of education? Why shut out light from the subject? If we require an annual report on the condition of the finances of the State, that we may see the sources of our revenue and examine the disbursements of our treasure, surely we should not refuse an annual report on the subject of education. Shall it be said that the people of Maryland are more interested for the perishable dollar, than for the education of their children?

Let, therefore, a report on the condition of our public schools be annually published; let it show the advantages of the system and point out the defects wherever they exist, and it will inspire new energy in the cause, and give a renewed impulse to the system. Every parent will look for it with anxiety; it will come as a yearly monitor to remind him of the obligations he owes to his children of early implanting in their minds the seeds of knowledge and the principles of virtue. Let a report on the subject be annually published, exhibiting the practical operation of the system in every county and section in the State, and new light will be shed upon the whole; each county will be a mirror to the other, reflecting the blessings of the system from the peaks of the Alleghanies to the sea-girted shores of Worcester.*

* NOTE.—Besides an annual report, an immense benefit might be done to the cause of education, by the establishment, in our State, of an *Educational Journal*. It would serve as a medium through which the friends of popular education might freely give their views on the subject, and point out the advantages of the system. It is to be hoped that some friend of the cause will undertake the enterprise. In