

proprietors by yielding up their resources of wealth and munificence.

Vast quantities of land have been reclaimed from the generation of foul malarias, and been made to contribute to the health and comforts of their owners, under the renovating effects of assistants suggested by the discoveries in scientific and chemical investigations. All this is not only profitable to us as a people, but productive of the richest social blessings. To the gradual development of these cheering results the action of the Legislature heretofore has contributed its helping hand; but only a tithe of what ought to be done has been as yet commenced. Great consequences to the present and future generations will flow from the continued aid to the cause of agriculture by our State government. Maryland is rich in her mineral resources, while her lands are susceptible of high cultivation; and the most important class of our population—the agriculturists—from whom so large a share of the material support to the government is drawn, should be generously stimulated in their noble pursuits by the kind and fostering care of the State.

While Maryland, in all her relations to the general government and her sister States, occupies a position eminently satisfactory, her domestic condition is one of no less encouragement. Through all the trying scenes she has had to pass, (the result of her liberality in sustaining her public works,) her credit has never been seriously tarnished, and she now bears an enviable character in a financial point of view. The various public works of our State have continued to expand in their capacities and permanent resources. The whole State, and especially the city of Baltimore—which should ever command our pride and support in the development and fostering of her commercial interests—has enjoyed the multiform benefits arising from these works, while the people have manfully borne the heavy burdens cast upon them, and continued to meet promptly the demands of the Treasury.

The control of these vast interests has by the Constitution devolved principally upon a co-ordinate branch of the government—the Board of Commissioners of Public Works. Their wisdom, I am sure, will point out the course best to be pursued in their management and future disposition. It would be inappropriate in me to suggest to them or to you, Senators and Representatives, any specific measure in relation to them at this stage of my administration, nor is it necessary at this time to discuss in detail the relations borne by the State to her public works, nor their financial condition. The result of some of these enterprises which the State has liberally fostered, has not been such as was by many anticipated when the credit of the State was loaned for their construction. Yet, on the other hand, it may be remarked that the benefits accruing to the State should not be measured by the direct profit or loss upon the actual investment, or the amount of revenue annually derivable to the Treasury on their account. The State is the gainer wherever the result has been an increase in the extent and