

mon school instruction for the entire State. It is a work worthy of the noblest effort, the most exalted talent, and the most soaring ambition. Perform it, and the proud consciousness of having done the State a signal service, will be yours, and the benedictions of generations yet to come, will follow you, proclaiming you, among the benefactors of the State.

I would respectfully call your attention to the duty of the Legislature under the ninth article of the Constitution, of providing by law, for the enrollment of the Militia, and for the encouragement of Volunteer Corps, in the various counties of the State, and in the city of Baltimore. Both of these Constitutional duties have been too long neglected; they are demanded by our present very defective military organization, and would doubtless be attended with beneficial results. But in my judgment, there is no prospect whatever that any material and permanent improvement will be effected in our military discipline, until your efforts commence with the *youth* of the State and are directed to the attainment of at least some degree of regular military education.

After some enquiry and reflection on this subject, I am satisfied of the entire practicability and expediency of introducing systematic Military Instruction into all the Colleges and Academies patronized by the State or sustained in part by its bounty. The eminent success which has attended those institutions, that have blended Military with the usual Academic instruction, is too well established to justify a doubt as to the utility and perfect success of the system. Many of the States of the Union have already established Military institutes under the liberal patronage of the State and have thus made provision for the annual diffusion among the people of an educated and scientific corps of young men, schooled in Military science, trained and disciplined to its practical duties, and prepared, should the emergency arise, to discharge the duties of any post in any department of Military duty. Several institutions of this character exist in our own State, without such patronage, in a highly flourishing and prosperous condition. They are beginning to attract a large share of public attention, and richly merit public confidence and support. Through a system of regular daily instruction and weekly parades which answer the double purpose of exercise and recreation, the students attain a degree of proficiency and skill, which acquaints them, not only with the duties of the private soldier, but with all the higher duties of company and battalion officers. It need not interfere with any Academic duty, time being specially appropriated to this physical exercise with the same system, that hours are devoted to intellectual culture. These Academic parades have been frequently witnessed by Military gentlemen of both State and Federal service, whose testimony has been uniform as to the exactness of their exercises, the soldierly bearing of the students, and the superiority of their drill over that of most of the Volunteer Companies of the State.