

only on this account, that the colleges may supply them with masters, and be looked up to as models and examples.

On every grand occasion in life it is surely proper to take a comprehensive view of the subject, to consider all its dependences, and, if possible, to penetrate into remote consequences, and not to contemplate a magnificent edifice in the manner of the insect in the fable.

The state of Maryland is connected by ties, which we trust may never be dissolved, with fourteen other states. The affairs of this great confederated republic are conducted by delegates from each state assembled in congress—Will country schools alone prepare a youth for acting his part with glory to himself, and reputation and advantage to his country, on that august theatre, in that grand convention of statesmen and patriots? To this question it may possibly be replied, that men of plain sense and honesty are the safest to confide in. But it never yet was known that knowledge debased the human mind, or that the union of splendid talents with integrity did not render a man more fit to discharge the highest offices of government.

The United States, in a few years, will unquestionably be the greatest and most flourishing, as well as the most extensive nation or empire on earth, provided only that it shall possess men fit for the conduct of its affairs. In every association of states there must, at times, be a clashing of interests, and of course an attempt to sacrifice the rights of one to the advantages of another. Ought not then the state of Maryland, as well as the other states, to take especial care, that in the general legislature her rights and interests shall never be violated or neglected? The seat of the general government, in a short time, is to be within the present limits of this state, and on this account it will become of greater importance than ever to fulfil the intention of the founders of St. John's college, by providing a succession of honest and able men.

It has ever appeared to the trustees of this college, that Annapolis, of all other places, is the best calculated for carrying that intention into effect, and hence it was that they chose Annapolis for its seat. It is a deplorable idea of a complete education which does not comprehend in it manners, a knowledge of the world, and some training to politics. Of Annapolis, with respect to manners as well as morals, it may be invidious to make any remark. With respect to size and population it is precisely the place for a college. It is not so large as that each student may not be known to every inhabitant, and it is not so small but that the whole body of students may be overawed from Riots or dissolute behaviour. It enjoys that singular advantage of having the trustees always on the spot, capable of superintending its professors and masters, and the idea of excelling in the eyes of these men will ever be a powerful incentive to the students. It is here that youths may be trained to the art of government, that most useful, most noble, most difficult of all sciences.—It is here, that attending the public debates, the ingenuous ardent youth will catch the flame of patriotism, and imbibe a laudable ambition.

Now supposing that this college affords the benefits of education only to the rich—suppose what the following detail will disprove—and it is still the rich man only who will not be injured by its suppression. With a view to expence only, it is of no consequence to *him* whether he sends his son to Annapolis, Philadelphia, Princeton, Liege or Eton.—Many are the youths whom St. John's college may prevent from being shipped to Europe, and becoming aliens, if not in person, at least in affection.—It was this unhappy circumstance which was most complained of before the revolution, and it is this circumstance, which, at this time, deserves a more serious consideration. Cannot your honours even recollect cases where this state hath lost some of its best men, because they could not conquer the strong attachments formed in the course of their education in neighbouring states? Is it not common too for young men who have been sent to Europe to return with an admiration of every thing foreign, and a contempt for their countrymen.—And yet these are the men, if the colleges are to be suppressed, on whom we must hereafter principally depend, as statesmen, patriots and heroes.

That the sending our children to other states, or beyond sea, for their education, is attended with the loss of money to the state, is then the least of all considerations on this important subject.

It has even been asserted, that the institution of seminaries, of which the benefits are confined to the rich, has a direct tendency to aristocracy. It is indeed true, that education, above all other things except wealth, will contribute to the acquisition of power and influence.—But is it not equally true and obvious, that every restraint on education within the state will have a tendency to confine that power and influence to a smaller number? In fact, deprive youths of the opportunity of obtaining a liberal education within the state, and none but the sons of the rich will hereafter enjoy it.

If at last it be the heavy expence to the public which affords the only plausible pretext for abolishing the college, or (which amounts to the same thing,) for resuming the funds, let us only advert to the very striking difference between the circumstances of the state, when the donation was made, and its situation, now that an attempt is made to take it away by the strong hand of power.—If in seven years the college should produce only one truly virtuous citizen of splendid talents, and animated with that ardour in his country's cause which his education is fitted to inspire, he is of more real value to the state than the donations for that time thrice three times multiplied.

The trustees have touched only on a few points for the consideration of the senate. Points and arguments of inferior importance they have omitted. They doubt not, that every thing they have suggested, would have readily occurred to that honourable body;—but they conceived, that they should not faithfully discharge their sacred trust, if they did not publicly stand forth in vindication of their charter.—They now proceed to give that information which hath been required, and which will exhibit in a more glaring light the inexpediency of the proposed act, and its total incompatibility with the public good.