

efforts have been made to collect information, and to obtain the opinions of intelligent Military Officers upon the subject. The present session may probably produce something decisive in relation thereto.

We must again call your attention to the all important subject of Education. The law for the establishment of Primary Schools, so well received by the people, is believed to be so defective that but a very partial attempt has been made to carry it into effect; and that without revision and material amendment it will be useless. So much depends upon the intelligence and just discrimination of our citizens that unless the benefits of Education shall be generally diffused amongst them, strong apprehensions may be entertained for the durability of our republican institutions. Our government essentially depend on public opinion for its support; and what reliance can be placed on, what stability looked for, in the opinions of an uneducated population?—Men are rash and inconsiderate generally in proportion to their ignorance. We should bear in mind that in this country alone, the experiment is now making, whether man is capable of self-government, and that deeply as we and our posterity are interested in its success, its propitious influence, may be expected not to be confined to us, but to extend to the whole human family.

The donations of the state for purposes of education to its colleges academies and common schools, amount annually to about the sum of thirty thousand dollars—and although this appears to be a liberal grant; yet when we take into consideration, the importance of the subject; we shall at once see, the propriety of extending it to the utmost limit that the resources of the state will justify. It is a lamentable fact, that most of our colleges and academies, are not on as good a footing as they were formerly. A youth in order to complete his education has to travel to a distant state, which greatly enhances the expence. A Parent could often afford to give his son an education at a College within the state, which he could not afford to do out of it.

Some further pecuniary aid to St. John's College, with the improvement in the condition of which you must be well acquainted; and it has advantages which would enable it to vie with any similar institution in the country. Since our last communication, Washington College on the Eastern Shore has been burnt, which fact was com-