

we cannot now forbear urging it upon you. It would seem to us, that the very first object of the solicitude of a government, instituted for the good of the whole people, and depending for its permanency and ability to answer the ends of its institution, upon the intelligent virtue and attachment of the great body of its constituents, should be the improvement of their moral and intellectual condition; yet but little, comparatively, has been done for this object by the constituted authorities of our state, although in every other respect, there has been constantly exhibited a most commendable liberality in endeavoring to provide for the general welfare. It cannot be, that there exists an apprehension that any reasonable expenditure, which the Legislature, in its wisdom, might think proper to incur, for so desirable a purpose, would not meet the approbation of our fellow citizens generally; for there is not one among them, who would not derive, from a judicious and well regulated system of public instruction, directly or indirectly, benefits, more than equivalent to any portion of the expenditure, which he might be required to pay. Institutions formed like ours, in wisdom and virtue, require for their guardianship and preservation, knowledge and intelligence. With these, we shall always be safe: without them, dangers immediately threaten; but this knowledge and intelligence, to be effectual to that end, must not be confined to the few—it must be generally diffused. The sovereign power, the right to judge and controul, resides equally in all; let all then be furnished with the lights to guide that judgment and regulate the exercise of that power.

The state of our finances will be found to be such as to require your early and serious attention. A considerable amount of the stocks, heretofore issued, in payment of the state's subscription to the different works of internal improvement, is now bearing interest, and this amount is progressively increasing, as the periods, to which it was deferred by the laws, directing its issue, necessarily expire. The demands upon the treasury will be considerably increased, from this cause during the coming season: rendering it indispensably necessary, that you should provide for a correspondent increase of its resources.