

be diffused amongst our posterity by the repayment and faithful application, according to the provisions of the act, of the sums loaned for their construction. Long have the patriots of our state sighed over the neglected state of education; long have her public functionaries and her people busied themselves in searching for means to provide adequately for that holiest duty of a paternal government. Behold them now flowing from this measure. Hitherto we have been, on the subject of internal improvement, a divided people. A very large portion of the state having no direct interest in works of this character, has been reluctant to consent to their construction, and many of our best citizens have pertinaciously refused to lend the public purse or public credit to any such enterprises, thinking it unjust, that all should be burdened in equal proportion with expenditures of which a part only were to reap the immediate benefits; but happily a change has taken place in our policy in regard to such works. The systems of internal improvement and general education are united. The former is made the hand maid of the latter. The law of the last session lends the public credit to insure the completion of works of great importance and certain profit, and bestows the whole of the great direct pecuniary gain of the state to provide for general education, and the whole state, as with one voice, approves the measure. All rejoice that these magnificent enterprises no longer languish—all hail the light of the new day which has dawned upon our native land—all exult in the sure prospect of ample provision being made in future for the developement of the intellectual powers of our posterity. Great, rich and powerful, the people of the state might have been without this, but happy they could never have become, a sheet anchor for their republican institutions they would not have had. The instructive pages of history, ancient and modern, tell of communities warlike and powerful and abounding in wealth, who yet have known little happiness, who have been the victims of depravity or the sport of tyrants; and these same pages acquaint us also with the fatal cause—the uneducated condition, the deplorable ignorance of the great mass of the people. Shining instances have existed, and may again exist, of great genius and learning in the midst of igno-