

the seat of the college, and there is no doubt but that the buildings will be carried on with the same zeal and alacrity which have hitherto born up this infant seminary against all the plots and machinations of its many enemies and opposers.

To a person who maturely considers the great and striking advantages of literature, the evident deficiency of institutions for its promotion in this State, and the manifest necessity of cultivating and improving the minds of our citizens—it will appear surprizing, that any plan for its encouragement, however defective, should meet with opposition, and that the representatives of the people should hesitate a moment to adopt a measure, so extremely conducive to their own welfare and that of their posterity.

The plan for the establishment of the Western-Shore college is certainly founded on the most liberal and beneficent principles—No religious sect is preferred, and even in the first appointment of agents, there is a junction of an Episcopal, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Clergyman, an association which, in the dark and illiberal state from which we have emerged, the hand of power would have forbid, even if the several Professors could have been cordially reconciled.—Yet we find that this accommodating expedient was not sufficient.—The spirit of party was not yet extinguished, and it appeared that the Presbyterians in particular, chose rather to withhold the advantages of general education from the State, than to promote them on a plan, which might possibly tend to strengthen the interest of their ancient enemies. At least this sentiment was publicly attributed to them in the House of Delegates, and considerable hints were dropped of an ungenerous association of that sect in other States, to damp the progress of this institution.

Some objections were also made on account of the situation of the people, and their inability to engage in such expensive undertakings, and a cry was raised among the vulgar, that it was burthening the poor to contribute to the education of the rich, who would alone derive the advantage and ought alone to support the expence.

These objections, however, were easily overruled; the want of learning and knowledge was too apparent throughout the State, and it was well observed by one of the members, that even in that house, such instances were too frequent to admit of any doubts on the subject.