

## REPORT.

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The Committee on Education, impressed by the magnitude and vital importance of the interests committed to their care, approach the subject with feelings of the highest responsibility, and trust that it may be in their power to offer suggestions which will receive the calm and practical attention of this honorable body.

It is needless to argue the duty of the State to educate her future citizens—to prepare them for the intelligent exercise of that privilege which is the peculiar inheritance of the American citizen, and which every year convinces us is to be either our glory or the pitfall of our liberties. The elective franchise vests all power in the masses of the people. It is waste of words to talk of our Bill of Rights, our Constitution, our common law, all are but a rope of sand when the voice of the people wills their dissolution. The only certain safe-guard for personal rights, and for this fair and free government, which our fathers shed their blood to establish, is in the virtue and intelligence of the citizens. They are the law-makers. They can put up one man and pull down another. By their consent we are here, and by their consent, alone, can we remain. The cause of education, then, is the foundation stone of all that we value as freemen. It is indissolubly linked with the success of our system of government. The parent should consider it as the well-spring of happiness for his children; and the citizen should regard it as the source of prosperity to the State. In a word, without an enlightened populace our freedom, instead of the boast of all lands, will become a by-word, reproach and hissing among all nations.

With these remarks, we call your attention to the fact that Maryland, with the exception of the city of Baltimore, is without any well-digested and efficient system of education for the thousands who soon will be rulers in the land. Circumstances have contributed to this peculiar condition of things, peculiar in many respects, but chiefly because it places us in an unenviable contrast with our sister States of the Confederacy.