

lands, and yet we have done comparatively nothing by any public effort towards developing the capacities and treasures of the immortal mind in the field of action to which I have alluded.

Gentlemen, the time has come, when the State should be aroused to vigorous and prompt action in reference to this great public necessity. Let then the initiatory steps be at once taken, to devise a liberal, efficient, uniform and practical system of common school instruction for the entire State. It is a work worthy of the noblest effort, the most exalted talent, and the most soaring ambition. Perform it, and the proud consciousness of having done the State a signal service, will be yours, and the benedictions of generations yet to come, will follow you, proclaiming you, among the benefactors of the State.

I would respectfully call your attention to the duty of the Legislature under the ninth article of the Constitution, of providing by law, for the enrollment of the Militia, and for the encouragement of Volunteer Corps, in the various counties of the State, and in the City of Baltimore. Both of these Constitutional duties have been too long neglected; they are demanded by our present very defective military organization, and would doubtless be attended with beneficial results. But in my judgement, there is no prospect whatever that any material and permanent improvement will be effected in our military discipline, until your efforts commence with the youth of the State and are directed to the attainment of at least some degree of regular military education.

After some inquiry and reflection on this subject, I am satisfied of the entire practicability and expediency of introducing systematic Military instruction into all the colleges and Academies patronized by the State or sustained in part by its bounty. The eminent success which has attended those institutions, that have blended Military with the usual Academic instruction, is too well established to justify a doubt as to the utility and perfect success of the system. Many of the