

I respectfully submit, that this is an auspicious time to encourage an association whose efforts have been attended with such public benefits. This Society sustained thus far by private liberality and enterprise, has spread abroad through the community most useful and practical information; by stimulating labor and promoting skill and industry, it has done much to arouse the dormant energies of the people in behalf of an interest which lies at the foundation of all national greatness. It is a step to the promotion of a more practical and thorough agricultural education as well as the more general diffusion among the people of those elementary and well established principles of agricultural science, which can as well be learned in youth, as by the slow process of personal experience. The members of this Society, together with many of the most enlightened and public spirited citizens of the State, have long advocated the necessity of establishing an Agricultural College with an experimental farm attached, wherein these principles might be practically taught with all the aids and advantages which such an institution would afford. The organization of an institution of this character is now under consideration. In the event of its receiving from private sources such support as will admit of a reasonable probability of the success of the undertaking, so fully impressed am I with the eminent advantages of such an institution, and believing that its benefits would be coextensive with the entire limits of the State, that I do not hesitate most earnestly to recommend, that such liberal aid be extended to this noble enterprise as its importance demands, and as it may be in the honor of the State to bestow. I am satisfied the Legislature could render no service, that would be more generally acceptable to the people of the State.

The condition of the Maryland Penitentiary requires your early attention. The operations of the Institution for the year just ended, together with the present state of its finances, will be exhibited by the Report of the Directors now recently ready.