

lature for the promotion of education. The state, in the appropriation of large funds for the support of public schools, designed that the diffusion of knowledge should be general—that the advantages of the system should be extended to all—that the indigent in every part of the state should participate in these advantages—the children of the indigent in every part of the state being equally dear to her, she contemplated no invidious distinctions in the distribution of the favour. The bill, if rightly understood, adopted a different principle—it gave to a particular tribunal the power of diverting the stream—of intercepting its flow to deserving objects—of drawing religious, political, or other distinctions—of reporting, in a word, to another tribunal what persons are proper objects of this bounty. Can it be doubted that this power might, and in times of great excitement, would be abused—that political prejudice or religious bigotry would at times be gratified at the expense of justice, and against the intention of the state? Again, when this selection had been made as if to screen (which was undoubtedly not intended,) those immediately concerned in the distribution of the fund from any censure for unjust partiality in the selection—or from the murmurs of those, whose children, although selected in the first instance, must yet be rejected, because the fund might be insufficient for the education of all, the commissioners were authorised to cast lots, and thus determine the matter. Was this right—was it politic, thus to shield officers from responsibility to public opinion for errors of practice or of intention? The senate think it was not. Other objections existed to the bill, but it is deemed unnecessary at present to suggest them.

The senate in conclusion will only observe, in answer to a remark of your honourable body, that whilst the senate feel all proper respect for the house, it has yet high duties to the people of Maryland to perform, and cannot consent to act on this, or any other occasion, merely for the purpose of registering your acts.

By order,

L. Gassaway, Clk.

By the Senate,

February 24, 1831.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

The senate has received your message in relation to the election of a senator in the congress of the United States, and takes leave to express the high sense entertained of the "obligation conferred" by the elaborate argument, and ar-