EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature, well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown."
Religion purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us rich—and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

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For the Easton Gazette.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

No. 2.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.

"*The best service that can be rendered to a country next to giving it liberty, is in diffusing the mental improvement, equally essential to the preservation and enjoyment of the blessing.*"

Such are the words of an eminent jurist and a pure patriot; and no freeman, who is qualified to preserve and enjoy his proper title, will attempt to impugn the great truth which they assert.

In the contrariety of opinions amongst men, there will always be found some opposed to the best system that human wisdom can devise; and although it may be said, and the assertion may be maintained upon its intrinsic merit, that "*he who would destroy a good system of education is wholly unworthy of the right of suffrage, or of even a place in a free state,*" it will not be contended that the law of "*public instruction*" enacted at the last session of our general assembly, and since published by the Governor and Council, is the best system which could be devised; yet it may be urged in its defence, if defence were necessary, that it is based upon the wisdom of other states, where the happiest consequences have rewarded the enlarged views and extended policy of their enlightened and profound statesmen; that it has been under discussion from year to year, and received amendments from session to session, until every objection had been removed, and the plan perfected to meet the sanction and approbation of large majorities in each branch of the legislature—The vote stood in the House of Delegates 49 to 14, and in the Senate 9 to 4.

The names of those who voted in favour of *Primary Schools* are here subjoined.

In the House of Delegates.

B. I Semmes, Speaker, Millard, Hawkins, Gough, Welch, Boon, Wickes, Harris, Gantt, Linthicum, Estep, M. Smith, Garner, Rogerson, Edelen, Turner, McCulloh, Banning, Millis, A. E Jones, Teackle, Brohawn, Eccleston, Grubb, Gilpin, Harlan, Beal, Duval, Speed, Ridgaway, Stevens, Sadler, Hooper, Parker, Mitchell, Cockey, Barnes, Sappington, Farquhar, Montgomery, Williams, Potter, Howard, Tyson, Merrick, Kershner, Kennedy, Blair, Armstrong.

In the Senate.

W. R. Stewart, President, Bowie, Claude, Dickinson, Emory, Johnson, Miller, Quinton, Tilghman.

It is to be lamented, and the more particularly as it has been predicted, and often repeated, that the supporters of this system would be handed down to future ages as pre-eminent benefactors of the state, that many of its firmest friends were absent on foreign service, confined by sickness, or kept away by other causes, and could not, consequently record their names upon the passage in each house; yet all who value their best blessing may well rejoice in the liberal votes which it received from those present, and ascribe it as alike honorable to *their intelligence*, and a testimonial *strong in favour of the measure.*

And it may, with truth, be further urged, that the best information was sought, industriously, from every source, the various bills, as reported, were, in succession, sent to those esteemed the wise and good in different sections of the Union; and the collected wisdom of these sources, deliberately adapted to our localities and circumstances—the details digested and matured, after deep and serious thought was combined to form the *general system of public instruction in primary schools, for all the youth of this state.*

From a mass of testimonials, all according in commendation of this system the letters of three of our venerable Ex-Presidents are deemed, especially, worthy of presentation—they are as follows.

Monticello, March 31, 1826.

Dear Sir,

I am indebted for the communication of your law of primary schools—I rejoice at the measure, being sincerely desirous of seeing the promotion of education, and especially in the south, where we have been so inattentive to it—You have begun at the right end the primary schools—I wish you entire success in your laudable design, and pray you to accept of the assurance of my great esteem and respect.

THOS. JEFFERSON.

Littleton Dennis Teackle, Esq.

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Monpellier, March 29, 1826.

Dear Sir,

I have received a copy of the law to provide for primary schools throughout your state—I congratulate you on the foundation thus laid for a general system of education, and hope that it presages a superstructure worthy of the patriotic forecast which has commenced the work—The best service that can be rendered to a country, next to that of giving it liberty is in diffusing the mental improvement equally essential to the preservation and enjoyment of the blessing. With esteem and frendly wishes,

JAMES MADISON.

Mr. Teackle.

—

Quincy, February 15th.

Sir,

I have received with gratitude, your system of education for the state of Maryland—It has been read to me, and I have heard it with admiration—It appeared to me the most perfect system of instruction, that I have ever known, or read of for any community--It will do immortal honor to the Maryland people if they will adopt it, and support it. With great respect, I am Sir, your most obd't. serv't.

JOHN ADAMS.

Littleton Dennis Teackle, Esq.

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Such are the opinions of three of our enlightened sages, and most distinguished patriots—men who have devoted their whole lives to the service of their country, and who in the evening of their days, are justly entitled to our highest regard and consideration.

In the continuation of these illustrations it may be proper, by repetition, to expose an error or misconception, which some, inconsiderately, have accepted—It is that the necessary support of the general system will operate as a *tax* upon the *rich*, for the *benefit* of the *poor*—this is surely a gross mistake—The system is *general*, and although the *poor* will doubtless derive *incalculable benefits*, the *rich* will receive the *greater gain*, inasmuch as their *greater riches will thence obtain* its *greatest* protection and security—from the best assurance of good government, to wit, the general diffusion of useful knowledge amongst the great body of the people—and it must be observed that *this advantage is over and above* their full share of *intellectual improvement*—and the idea of increased burthens upon the property of the wealthy is also false and mistaken—It has been shown, in a previous number, that even admitting that the means be raised, *entirely*, by assessments upon the counties that *very few would pay as much for the superior benefits of improved instruction as they now pay for a precarious or imperfect course*—But *no increase of taxation* is *contemplated* or *expected*—one half of the direct revenue was discontinued at the last session, and it is believed that the other half may soon, hereafter, be relinquished—It will appear by reference to the last report of the committee of ways and means that a *surplus of more than eighty nine thousand dollars* was in the treasury on the 1st day of December, 1825, and that, after the payment of the last debt due by the state unprovided for, there will remain in the treasury a balance of *more than one hundred thousand dollars at the end of the current fiscal year*—and besides allowing for the diminution of demands for interest, on account of the *total extinguishment of the state's debts*; of the gradual reduction of the pension list, which, in the course of nature must soon cease; and of sundry other, temporary charges, the avails of lotteries, when liberated from their present incumbrances, and other improving branches of the public income, may be *safely calculated to so increase the annual surplus, as to produce sufficient means for the new system without recourse to a further assessment upon the counties.*

The general system of public instruction may be found in chapter 162 of the last session of the legislature, and the following sections are well worthy of public attention.

"29. And be it enacted that at the next election of Delegates to the General Assembly, *every voter when he offers to vote, shall be required by the judges of the election*, to state whether he is *for* or *against* the *primary schools*, and the said judges shall record the number of votes *for* and *against* the *primary schools*, & if the *majority* in *any county* shall be in *favor of the primary schools, then the said act* shall be *voted for such county.*"

"30. And be it enacted, that if a majority of the voters of any county shall be *against* the *primary* schools, then and in that case the said act shall be *void* as to *that county.*

Now the manifest meaning of these clauses that *each* and *every county* which shall give a majority *for* primary schools will receive from the treasury a *full proportion of the money assigned for their support*; and that "*any* county," which shall be *against* the primary schools" shall be *excluded & shut out from all benefit of*, or *participation in said money*—such a question was fairly tested at the last election of Delegates for the city of Baltimore, and the *affirmative* vote was highly honourable to their people—can it be expected that "*any county*" will give a *negative* at the next election?—for the state's honor, and the common welfare; I trust not—Further views will be submitted.

With high respect,

LITTLETON DENNIS TEACKLE.

Somerset co. June 12, 1826.

For the Easton Gazette.

To the Editor,

Sir,—When contrasting the different characters and different dispositions of the different members of society,—I have often been induced to draw conclusions, that if proper corrections had been applied in early childhood, many of the evils that arise in society might be done away with, and many of the misfortunes that press us sorely and heavily might be obviated. We know, that just as the twig is bent, the tree will ever incline,—and as the early instructions of childhood are either properly or illy directed, so will be the disposition and propensities and character of the individual. These observations apply to every portion of society—either high or low—yet, with the female, I am inclined to think they operate with more force than with the male—for this reason; the female has less intercourse, with general society or the world at large, and therefore is more liable to imbide the sentiments and feelings of those around her, and lay the superstructure of her future propensities and character—the male, as he advances in age and reason will, as the present laws of society have provided him other asssociates, beside those he finds in his own house, and likewise, allows him greater liberty and privileges—adopt often the sentiments and notions of those he meets abroad, and will likewise, from example, improve those notions in many cases, which he had adopted in the nursery of his parents, which he finds illy accords with his progress through the world.—I do not mean to say that the female is less apt than the male—I mean that example, all powerful example, influences the mind of the one—whereas the other has not the benefit of this example, except in a very limited sense, and therefore imbibes in part, if not wholly, the sentiments of her parents, inculcated into the infantile mind at so early an age, that, if they be pernicious, (which is frequently the case in a more or less degree,) attend her through life, unless she be endowed with peculiar strength of judgment, to act as a corrective.

This early introduction of pernicious principle into the female mind is more to be lamented, because tyrannical man has denied them in a general sense the advantages of a liberal education—the only legitimate means in conjunction with the examples of proper society, of correcting them. I do not mean to make a direct charge upon the habits and morals of the parents, in what I have said, because such an assertion would be groundless and untrue. I have in very many instances seen individuals, who were under the influence of religious principles, train their children up "in the way they *should* go:" and in other instances, the infantile mind has been left to wander unbridled where fancy or inclination should lead it—the consequence is, in the latter case, that the females are rarely intelligent and agreeable associates—bad wives—and miserable mothers.

As almost all parents wish to see their daughters happily married and settled in life, before they are summoned to leave the world—and as all are willing to see their daughters honoured for their talents, and respected for their improvement; it is a matter of surprise to me why so little time and attention is bestowed upon the improvement of their minds, and that they should be suffered to grow up unimproved and unadorned to grace society. This laxity of attention on the part of the parents, produces a laxity of filial obedience on the part of the child, and the uncultivated and undisciplined state of the female mind, often induces it to commit errors, which a whole life of penitence and contrition does not atone for.

There is one circumstance in the female life, which if no other existed, ought of itself to demand a prompt and an efficient attention on the part of the parent as regards a liberal and more extended education—I mean their *marriage*; certainly the most important action of their lives, and one that is consequently to make them happy or miserable. Why is it that we hear of elopements from the homes of parents? there can be but two causes; either the parents restricts the intercourse of their daughters with society, and show a reckless regard for the *pleasure* and *convenience* of their daughters, or they train them up in such *ignorance*, that their minds are not capable of forming just conceptions of the character, disposition and motives of the man who claim their affections; one or either of these, is most certainly the case; however, in the main, I disapprove of runaway matches; I think they are as often unhappy as happy; but, I think parents are always *bound* to give *just* and *reasonable* objections to their daughters, before they can with justice ask their acquiescence in objecting to the pretensions of a respectable man. I am led more to this belief, because a female seals either her happiness or unhappiness with her marriage; and where the result is so important to herself, she certainly ought generally to judge for herself. 'Tis folly to say that our parents know better than *we* do, that *this* or *that* one is a more suitable match—that this man's father was a *good man* before him! or that man's father broke his mother's heart! all this may do very well in the theorising brain of a parent; but as the daughters have the *practice* to perform, they generally know best what man will suit them—and they certainly cannot be blamed for *thinking* and *judging* for themselves in affairs of the *heart.*

You see, Mr. Editor, that the feelings of my sex, have led me widely from the subject I commenced with, but you must excuse me, women you know, were always frail, weak-thinking, straying creatures ever since the creation of the world. Perhaps I may again trouble you the next week.

EUTERPE.

For the Easton Gazette.

June 12, 1826.

Mr. Graham,

I present you with the Report of the committee of Congress, published the 25th day of last May on the subject of Internal Improvement so far as relates to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and I beg you will give it a place in your Gazette in such portions as may be most convenient to the size of your paper and the press of other matter.

I cannot but feel much gratification when I see all the views that I took of this question, as I presented it to the attention of my late constituents, together with many others, introduced by a learned committee of Congress as reasons why this work should be undertaken. If the common sense principles and reasoning which, I think, amply sufficient to sustain this question, should by others be deemed to require additional aid, nothing could more fortunately and more efficiently supply that aid than the long established and decided opinions of the great founder of this Republic, George Washington, which are so fully set forth in this report. To this may be added too, the similar opinions of the great body of the sound&able statesmen of Washington's day in the states of Virginia and Maryland—men, the wisdom of whose course in all things placed their opinions beyond the reach of doubt, and whose unsullied purity of character justly elevated them above reproach or even suspicion.

So fully was the legislature of Virginia convinced that the views of General Washington upon the subject of Internal Improvement, by uniting the western waters and those of the Chesapeake Bay, were correct, that they unanimously voted to give him a number of shares in the Maryland and Virginia Potomac Companies, equal to that which Virginia took for herself, for the particular purpose, as the law expressed it "That those great works for (his country's) improvement, which, both as springing from the liberty which He had been so instrumental in establishing and as encouraged by his patronage, will be *durable monuments* of his glory, may be made monuments also of the gratitude of his country"—

It ought to be remarked, that the object of these two companies which had been formed by General Washington, and of which he had consented to be the President at the earnest request of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison with other distinguished co-operators in this plan of Internal Improvement, was to open the navigation of the Potomac from the tide water at George Town to Wills' Creek, and this was intended to be an incipient step immediately conducive to a connexion with the Ohio and Western waters. Whether this could be most usefully done by clearing the bed of the river Potomac, or by a canal, could not at that time of day be with accuracy decided on, because of a deficiency of engineering science. To judge of its effects when finished was all a statesman could do—to urge the undertaking and its completion was all that the patriot could advise. The operations to complete the work belonged to a particular branch of science, rare in our country to be seen, at the time those Potomac companies were first formed, but now abundant; and the practicability and cost of the canal can now be as certainly ascertained as the height of a given object or the distance between two given stations.

It is worthy of remark too, first that so great was the importance attached to this subject by Gen. Washington that he urged it upon the states of Maryland and Virginia, upwards of forty years ago, when they certainly were not as able to undertake it by any means as they now are—and secondly, that the situation of General Washington on the Potomac, some fifteen or twenty miles below the utmost point of tide water, together with that of two thirds of the land holders of Virginia, was as to the navigation of the upper part of the Potomac from Wills' Creek to tide water, either by clearing the bed of the river or by supplying a canal along side of it with its water, precisely the same, as the situation of the land holders on the Eastern Shore of Maryland is to the contemplated canal. Neither General Washington nor the people of what was called old Virginia would make any use of the canal—nor would the people of the Eastern Shore—yet the General knew and felt that that was no argument against it, but he advised it and urged it upon national principles, as tending to cement the Union--upon principles of general improvement by facilitating intercourse and promoting internal commerce—upon principles of encouraging industry and introducing the wealth of the west to be exported from the middle states of Maryland and Virginia, and thereby diffusing among them the prosperity and riches for ever attendant upon increasing exportations.

So far as the influence of great authority goes, so far the friends of internal improvement have great support. There can be few men in our country who would not feel strong in an opinion upon the internal welfare of this country, which was either founded upon, or corroborated by, a similar opinion long and uniformly entertained by General Washington--and whatever party political opinions we may have entertained in relation to men and to national policy, there are few indeed amongst us who would not quote with pleasure the opinions of Jefferson and Madison, expressed forty years before this time, when co-operating zealously with the great father of his country in laying the foundation of one of the most stupendous works that ever graced the history of any time.

I have at no time impugned the opinions of those who differed with me upon the subject nor have I ever even held those opinions themselves up to reprobation. I always regarded those who differed with me on this subject as governed by pure motives and of course I had neither cause nor disposition to arraign them. Had they contemplated this subject as long by the same lights that I have, we should all probably think alike--as information develops itself opposition to internal improvement must decline—This is an historical fact belonging to other ages, to other countries, and to different parts of our own country, and to time I cheerfully leave it as to an unerring test.

There was a system of national policy established during the presidency of Washington which made the first and most lasting impression upon my mind, and it is to that time I look back for the elements of whatever political knowledge I may possess. The experience of the last twenty eight years has but tended to prove that policy correct, and we may trace our errors and our correctness during that period, as we may have aberrated from or conformed to the doctrines, the principles, and the system of that day.

In giving you this trouble Sir, I have no object but to shew my fellow citizens that the proofs are strong in my favour that I have acted right, as all who know me must believe that I have no interest in any public concern that is not common with all my neighbours around me. I am dear sir, your obd't.

ROB'T. H. GOLDSBOROUGH.

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Mr. STEWART, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, to which the subject had been referred, made the following

REPORT:

The committee on roads and Canals, to whom was referred the joint memorial of the Central Committee and the Commissioners appointed by Virginia, Maryland, and the United States, to open books for the subscription of stock in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, with sundry petitions from the citizens of Pennsylvania and Maryland on the same subject, respectfully report:

That they have given the important subject referred to them all the consideration which the short time allowed at so late a period of the session would permit.

In presenting the subject to the consideration of the House, the Committee propose, in the first place, to take a brief view of the early history of this measure, its origin and progress up to the present time; then to state some of the most important facts and results disclosed by the recent surveys, together with an estimate of the probable expense of the work, and the ways and means for its accomplishment; and, finally, present some of the benefits and advantages which it is believed will compensate the nation for the cost of its construction.

The committee have obtained possesion of a variety of letters, reports, maps, and papers, connected with this subject, in the hand-writing of General Washington, extracts of which are annexed to this report. From these papers, it appears that the importance of improving the navigation of the Potomac river, which affords the nearest and most practicable connexion with the Western Waters, attracted the attention of the Colonial Government of Virginia, whilst yet a province of Great-Britain. Among the manuscripts referred to, the committee find a report in the hand writing of General Washington, dated in 1754, stating all the difficulties and obstructions to be overcome in rendering the Potomac navigable, and he actually succeeded, says his biographer, Marshall, in getting an act passed by the colonial government "to *open the Potomac so as to make it navigable from the tide water to Wills' Creek*" and the business was in a train which promised success, when the Revolutionary war turned the attention of its patrons, and of all *America from internal improvements* to the great objects of liberty and independence. As that war approached its termination, subjects which, for a time, had yielded their pretensions to consideration, reclaimed that place to which their real

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