Thomas J. Pole
Sec Cong
Maryland Inst

Rec'd Annuals
March 21 1809

TO THE ROMAN CATHOLICS OF THE U. STATES.

MY BRETHREN,

I solicit your kind benefactions, which, however small, will be gratefully received, in favor of an Establishment, whose sole object is the honor of God and the good of our fellow-creatures. It is not only intended for the instruction and improvement of youth, many of whom shall be gratuitously educated, but by introducing into our states the pious and respectable order of St. Dominick, distinguished among all the religious orders of the Church, both for the learned, zealous and apostolical men it has given to the Church, and the active, pious and enlightened citizens it has given to the world, is every way calculated to supply our Holy Church with able missionaries, the state with good citizens, and society in general with virtuous and respectable members. The R. R. Dr. Carroll, solicitous for the success of this undertaking, urges the execution of the plan; observing in his letter to me on the subject, "that it is only from such establishments he can hope for a supply of learned and zealous labourers in the vineyard of the Lord." To shew the sanction he gives to it, and with a view to promote its success, he recommends it to all Catholics in the following manner, which recommendation he authorised and requested me to make public.

"The Rev. Edward D. Fenwick, and other clergymen associated with him, having proposed to themselves the establishment of a College in Kentucky, for the education of youth; I not only approve, but greatly rejoice at their having formed such a resolution, which, if carried into effect, cannot fail of producing the most beneficial effects for improving the minds and morals of the rising generation, and fortifying their religious principles. Believing that God in his beneficence inspired this design into their minds, I take the liberty of recommending to, and exhorting all my dear brethren and children in Christ, to grant every assistance and encouragement they are able, and thus co-operate to the success of a work undertaken for the glory of God and their own advantage."

The Rev. Thomas Wilson, D. D. Professor of Belles Lettres, and formerly President of one of our Colleges in Europe, and the Rev. Messrs. Angier and Tuite, Professors of Latin, Greek and Mathematics, have generously quitted their native country, their relatives and the usual comforts of life, to join and co-operate with me in this arduous undertaking. The purchase I have made of a plantation with some conveniences, and the erection of the first necessary buildings, have nearly exhausted my means, and I have but little assistance from the poor, though good people, among whom charity alone induced me to settle. Moreover the completion and ornamenting of a large Church now half finished, under the patronage of St. Rose, the only canonized saint of all America, and the building of a College, for which I am actually collecting materials, must necessarily require substantial funds, which I can only look to divine Providence for, and hope to raise from the donations and support of the charitable and benevolent promoters of virtue and learning. Therefore, let me beg of you, my Catholic brethren, to weigh attentively this interesting subject, and the great advantages that must accrue both to Religion and to our country from an establishment of this kind; and I am confident you will readily contribute proportionably to your means, for the success of an enterprize which will entitle you to the suffrages and pious prayers of all the members of our society for many succeeding generations, and to the grateful remembrance of your well wisher, and

Obedient Servant,
EDWARD D. FENWICK.

Springfield, March 21, 1809.

1324

MdHS 1974 [1139-1324]