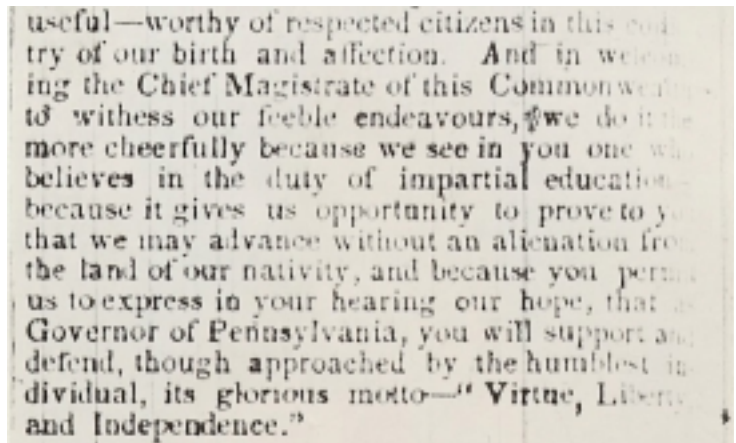


GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA,—We have not been ignorant of the fact that your excellency has been visiting the Educational and other useful institutions of our city, and have not failed to ask ourselves as we read the various reports in the papers, “will the Governor visit our School?” We know that the chance to see you in our capacity of scholars, was not so good as might be under a different state of things in society around—for you see us, sir, a little family by ourselves, set off from the other youth of this great Commonwealth, and in this fact we are constantly reminded that Pennsylvania does not yet acknowledge the common brotherhood of her children. We are glad, therefore, that in the midst of your numerous engagements, your Excellency has given us an opportunity to present ourselves before you, that you may see that though not recognized in the political arrangements of this Commonwealth, we are nevertheless preparing ourselves usefully for a future day, when citizenship in our country will be based on manhood and not on color. We do not forget the noble sentiments uttered by you previous to your election on the subject of Common School Education; nor are we unmindful of the benevolence of those individuals through whom this institution now exists. We believe that notwithstanding the restriction imposed upon us in the various avenues of life, we may yet by means of this and other schools, by aid of the mechanic arts and agriculture, and the strength of upright characters and a love for the right—make ourselves

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useful—worthy of respected citizens in this country of our birth and affection. And in welcoming the Chief Magistrate of this Commonwealth to witness our feeble endeavours, we do it the more cheerfully because we see in you one who believes in the duty of impartial education—because it gives us opportunity to prove to you that we may advance without an alienation from the land of our nativity, and because you permit us to express in your hearing our hope, that as Governor of Pennsylvania, you will support and defend, though approached by the humblest individual, its glorious motto—“Virtue, Liberty and Independence.”



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