Governor's Message.

Senators, and Gentlemen of
The House of Delegates:

Since the adjournment of the last Legislature the North Western boundary between the United States and Great Britain has been established by the two Governments to the satisfaction of the people of each country; and the adjustment of this question, through the public will and sentiment of the two nations, gives assurance that the amicable relations, which have been happily restored, will not again be disturbed by the Government of either country.

At the period, referred to, it was generally believed that our difficulties with Mexico were more certainly susceptible of an amicable adjustment, and less apprehension was consequently felt by your predecessors, of a collision with that country than with Great Britain. The result has shown the fallacy of human judgement —the inadequacy of human intellect to fathom the future. Texas had been annexed to the American Union without occasioning a war with Mexico; but the subsequent determination of the Federal Executive to maintain as the boundary between the United States and Mexico, the boundary of Texas, as defined by the Texan Congress, anterior to her annexation, has given rise to the war which now exists between that Republic and the United States.

The Congress of the United States, by an act passed on the thirteenth day of May, 1846, recognised the existence of a state of war between the United States and the Republic of Mexico; and authorized the President to accept of the service of a volunteer force, not exceeding fifty thousand men, and to call on the several States, for their respective quota of that force. Under this law, the president made a requisition on me, for two regiments of infantry as the quota of that force, to be supplied by the State of Maryland. I immediately issued a Proclamation, calling upon the citizens of the State, to volunteer for that purpose; and the patriotic ardour manifested by the Sons of Maryland to rally under the Flag of their Country, enabled me in a few days after the date of my Proclamation, to call upon the Secretary of War with the assurance that I could supply the entire quota of this State within any period he might designate; provided, he would authorize me to give the assurance to those who might volunteer, that they would be received and mustered into the service of the United States. The Secretary of war stated that the President had no intention to receive into actual service any part of the force called for from this State; and I of course abandoned as worse than a useless ceremony, the idea of organizing two volunteer Regiments, under the requsition of the President, when informed that he had no intention to accept their services. Before, however, the intention of the Government was known, three companies had organized in the city of Baltimore, whose claim to be mustered into the service of the United States, the President subsequently recognised; and they with two companies from the District of Columbia, were sent to the seat of war, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William H. Watson, who has since met a soldier's death, in leading his Battalion in a charge upon the Mexican batteries at Monterey.

The requisition of the President, the Proclamation issued by me, and a letter from the Secretary of War, explanatory of the requisition, are herewith submitted, as documents which should be preserved to explain the smallness of the force which Maryland has sent into the field; and to show the readiness of her people to meet the call of the Federal Executive, in defence of our common country.

In placing Maryland in her true position upon this subject: I must not be understood as desiring to throw any censure upon the President for the course pursued by him, under this act of Congress. His taking the major part of the force for actual service from the southern and south western States is attributable, I have no doubt, to the greater facility with which they could reach the seat of war; and to their supposed better adaption to the climate of the country in which the war is waged. Whatever was his object in making his requsitions for the entire fore, when he only designed to receive into the service a part of that force, the effect has been to exhibit to Mexico and the world the great political spectable of a free people, differing amongst themselves, as to the necessity, policy, and national utility of the war, uniting as one man for its prosecution against the enemies of their country. Indisposed from habit and temperament to look at the darker side of every question, I cannot see, as some do in every victory achieved by American valor a lurking danger to the institutions of the country; and although I am fully impressed with the conviction that in other hands the present war might have been avoided by the Federal Government, beneficially and with honor to the country, I cannot view the mere expenditure of the public treasure, as outweighing the national benefits which have so far resulted from the conflict. The national debt by creating the necessity of a larger revenue, may be converted by those who are to follow our present rulers, into a national blessing, by affording adequate protection to American industry. But independently of this—the mere treasure which has been expended is in my judgement fully compensated by the manifestation of union & patriotism which have been exhibited by the American people—by the national glory won by American valor—by the confidence which has been established in the efficiency of our regular Army; & above all by the sense of securiry, consequent upon the firm reliance, which, for the future, will be placed in the efficiency of our only true national defence—*the Citizen Soldier.*

When in their opinion the proper time has arrived for that purpose, the people of the country will thoroughly investigate the conduct of their Government upon this subject; and if their conviction shall be that this war was not called for by such grievous national wrongs inflicted by the Republic of Mexico, as rendered an appeal to the bloody arbitrament of the sword necessary to the honor of the country, the deep condemnation, which will follow that conviction, will not spring from the amount of the public treasure unnecessarily expended, but from the loss of those gallant sons of the republic, whose blood has been shed in the prosecution of the war. If the result of this investigation shall be that the war was uncalled for by such momentous national necessities, as would justify the Federal Executive in waging it, the condemnation of our Federal Rulers will be no where more unanimously expressed than in Maryland; for she has suffered more severely than her sister States. Before the American Army had met the enemy, it was her lot, to mourn the loss of one of her sons, (the gallant Col. Trueman Cross) treacherously murdered upon the banks of the Rio Grande; and although every conflict with the foe has resulted in a lorious victory, the rejoicings of her citizens, have been checked and saddened, by the loss in every battle, of some of the most distinguished of those, whom she had sent forth to serve their country.

Although the memory of those who have perished will live in the hearts of their countrymen, it will, Gentlemen, be your duty to meet the wishes of your constituents by taking the necessary steps to express in a suitable manner, on behalf of the State her deep sorrow and lamention for the loss inflicted upon her, and the country, by their untimely death.

As the existing legislation of Congress gives a pension only for five years to the widow or orphan of the officer or soldier who may be killed in battle, it will be expected by your constituents that you will take such steps as will ensure such a permanent provision, either through the action of Congress, or by your action, as will be sufficient, to keep from want the widow and orphan of the Maryland officers and soldiers, who have been killed in fighting the battles of of their country.

Will you permit me, Gentlemen, in reference to this subject, to trespass so much further upon your attention, as to express my conviction, that you will be performing an acceptable service to your constituents, by expressing the approbation of the State, of the conduct of those of her surviving sons, who have distinguished themselves in the battles which have been fought?

In my message to the last legislature, it became my duty to express the opinion, that the existing laws were wholly inadequate to ensure the proper enrolment and organization of the militia of the State and to recommend, in view of the then hostile attitude of Great Britain, the passage of such laws as would be sufficient to effect a thorough re-organization of the military force of the State; and hereby place her in a proper posture of defence.—The Legislature, believing that our difficulties with Great Britain would be amicably adjusted, and not apprehending a war with Mexico, did not deem it necessary to legislate upon that subject.

When Congress declared that a state of war actually existed with Mexico, I believed it to be my duty to ascertain the state of organization and efficiency of the militia; and to use all the power, with which I was clothed, to place Maryland in a military position to meet any contingency, which might occur.

The report of the Adjutant General, which is herewith submitted, will give you a detailed account of the enrolment and organization which have been effected under the military orders issued by me. I must ask for this subject the consideration which its importance merits, and I have every confidence, that the additional legislation necessary to the full enrolment and efficient organization of the volunteer and militia force of the State, will be the result of your deliberation.

The present militia system imposes on the State an annual expense of from one to two thousand dollars without affording any equivalent advantage. The 24th section of the act of 1834, chapter 251, makes it the duty of the Adjutant General to furnish the militia officers annually, with proper forms and blanks, for their returns and reports; & directs the Governor to draw on the treasury for the costs of such forms & blanks. Since the passage of this act, the annual expense incident to the compliance with his provision, (for printing and postage alone,) has been equal to one thousand dollars; and if this section remains in force, will be increased, in the ratio of the increase of the numbers of officers now in commission, above the number heretofore commissioned. Since the adjournment of the Legislature in March last, I have issued more than fifteen hundred military commissions, which would double the expense heretofore incurred, under this section of the act of 1834; and being satisfied, that no officer is, or should be in commission, who is incapaple of making all the reports and returns required of him by law; I am sure you will readily apply the necessary corrective to save the States this unnecessary expense.

Gentlemen, I must now refer to *the subject* which will, above all others demand your consideration and action.

Our State for the last six years has been unable to meet her liabilities, from causes referred to, and fully explained, in my message to the last legislature. For a portion of that period, the public debt had increase, by the accumulation of interest, with fearful rapidity; and at the close of the fiscal year immediately preceeding my qualification as Governor the arrears of interest amounted to $1,432,154,51.

The law imposing the direct tax had passed at December Session 1840, and with the other revenue measures, subsequently passed, were found wholly inadequate to arrest the progressive accumulation of interest, and consequent increases of the public debt. To the total insufficiency of the taxes which had been imposed, *if fully paid*, to meet the demands upon the treasury, was superadded the alarming fact, that from the commencement of the late war with Mexico, a large portion of the taxes imposed by the State, the revenue laws were unenforced. In this disastrous condition of the public finances, it became my duty to devise and recommend such measures as would be adequate to redeem the public faith, and render justice to the creditors of the State. It was manifest to me at this juncture, that prompt and efficient action on the part of the legislative and executive branches of the Government, or permanent insolvency and dishonor, were the necessary alternatives. At this crisis in the affairs of the State, I had a right to expect the cordial support of every citizen who valued the honor of his State; and I was consequently unprepared for the opposition to some of the measures recommended, which was manifested in some sections of the State. I did, however, receive the cordial and efficient co-operation of the legislatures of 1844 and 1845; and the wisdom of their legislation is now vindicated by its results. The beneficial effects of that legislation, united with the proper enforcement of the other revenue laws, will be demonstrated by a comparison of the previous with the subsequent financial conditon of the treasury. During the fiscal year ending on the first of December, 1844; the treasurer paid on account of interest $395,059,62, *being* less than one year's interest, by the sum of $260,361,54; and the public debt was consequently increased during that fiscal year by the aumount of that deficit.—In the following fiscal year ending on the first of December, 1845, the treasurer paid, towards the liquidation of interest, the sum of $710,784,51 *being more* than one year's interest, by the sum of $55,363,35 decreasing the public debt by that amount, and making a relative difference of $315,724,89 in the financial operations of the two years. If this comparison is extended to the close of the fiscal year on the first of December last, it will show that there was paid in the year towards the extinguishment of interest, the sum of $732,289,99 being $76,868,83 *more*, than the accruing interest for the year, and lessening the public debt by that amount.—But, gentlemen, I have had a double object in instituting this comparison between the pre-existing system of taxation unexecuted, & the system as perfected by the legislation of 1841 and 1845, fully enforced; my chief object has been to show; by actual practical results, that the existing tax laws are more than adaquate to meet the current demands upon the treasury. I will now proceed to show that you will be justified, without the imposition of additional taxes, in funding the arrears of interest, and in proclaiming a day upon which the State shall resume the payment of all current demands upon her treasury, and thereby cast off for ever the reproach which for so many years has rested upon her and her people.

Your first object in prosecuting this inquiry, will be to ascertain the amount of interest which will be necessary to fund, that you may know the consequent increase in the demands upon the treasury; and it is my duty to give you the data upon which your estimates should be predicated. I will suppose that you will decide to fund to the first of October next, exclusive of the interest of that quarter.—You will then have the arrears of interest on the first of December, 1846, $1,299,922.33

One months interest due on the 1st of January, 1847,	51,220.00
The quarters interest due on the 1st of April, 1847,	94,458,00
And the quarters interest due on the 1st July 1847,	231,453.00
Which will make the interest due, and to become due to that date,	$1,677,053.33

Your determination to fund will involve, as its necessary consequence, the repeal of the laws which authorize the payment of taxes in coupons. If you should pass an act repealing the coupon laws, to take effect from the first of July next, I should think it fair (in view of the anxiety which will be felt to pay the taxes by this depreciated means) to estimate that the amount to be funded will not exceed $1,200,0 00.

Your next object should be to ascertain what will be the current demands upon the treasury. The annual claims upon the treasury consist of the ordinary expenses of the State Government, which may be estimated at $200,000.00

The interest on the public debt exclusive of the interest on the tobacco loan, which is paid by that fund, at	651,821.16
Making the present annual demands upon the treasury	$851,821.16

To this you must add the interest on million two hundred thousand dollars, the debt now proposed to be funded, *at such rate* as in your judgment the honor of the State, and the just claims of her creditors may require you to establish.

The only remaining inquiry will be, whether the existing tax laws will yield a sufficient revenue to meet this demand upon the treasury. The importance of correct conclusions upon this subject cannot be overrated: as an error in your estimates would entail upon the State, the humiliation of a second insolvency; and I must therefore solicit for the views which I entertain and shall express, the most thorough investigation.

In the first place, then, may not the adequacy of the existing tax laws be assumed from the fiscal results of the last two years? Or, in other words, if the legislature of 1844 had funded the interest then in arrears, and ordered the resumption of payment by the State, would not the receipts of the treasury since that time, have enabled the State to maintain her solvency to the present moment? In the fiscal year ending on the first of December 1845, the treasurer after paying the ordinary expenses of the Government, paid $55 363 35 more than the interest which accrued for the same period, and had in the treasury on that day *a surplus of* $199,412 16. It is therefore manifest that for that fiscal year the State could have met all the liabilities which funding and resumption would have imposed upon her. In the next fiscal year ending on the first of December 1846, the ordinary expenses, paid $76,868 83 more than the current interest on the public debt for that year, and retained in the treasury *a surplus of* $147,913 41 thus clearly establishing the ability of the treasury in that year, to have met every liability which would have been consequent upon the funding of the arrears of interest, and the resumption of the payment of the accruing interest on the public debt.

Gentlemen, I do not desire that you should rely upon any opinion expressed by me upon this momentous subject. It is your province to give to this subject a minute and thorough examination, and it is my desire solely to suggest for your consideration, such facts as may facilitate your investigation, and assist you in arriving at correct conclusions. In my judgment you could not adopt a method of investigation, which would lead you more certainly to correct results, than by looking to the receipts of the past year, and by an examination of the sources from which those receipts were derived, to ascertain whether the receipts from the same sources, will be increased, or diminished in future years.—If you should adopt this course, you will find that the receipts for the last year were

from the direct tax	$523,049.67
And from other sources	394,703.04
Making the aggregate receipts	$917,752.71

In following the train of investigation suggested, your attention would now be directed to the inquiry, whether the direct tax for the future will probably yield an increased, or a diminished revenue.

Upon this point, let me invite your consideration of a single fact. By an act of the last session, a re-assessment was ordered of the property in the city of Baltimore. This assessment has not been completed; but with the desire of supplying you with all the information necessary to just conclusions upon the subject, I addressed a letter to the Mayor of that city, requesting him to inform me what would be the result of that assessment; and I have received a communication from him, in which he says, "that the assessment will not fall short of $80,000.000." If this estimate be correct, it will add $25.171,784 to the assessment upon which the direct tax now operates, and will increase the revenue which *will accrue* from that source, sixty-two thousand nine-hundred and twenty-nine dollars and forty-six cents. It will be for you to decide whether this increase in the accruing revenue will prevent a decrease of receipts from that source.

In pursuing this investigation, it will only remain for you to examine the various sources of revenue, other than the direct tax, from which (as you have seen) the receipts in the past year amounted to $394,703 04 for the purpose of deciding, whether you can rely *with certainty* upon increased receipts for the future, from those sources. I by no means intend to travel over this wide field of investigation, and shall content myself with referring very briefly, to two or three of the indirect taxes, and in an after portion of this communication more at large to the connexion of the State, with her various works of Internal Improvement, and the revenue which may be derived from that source.

You are aware that the laws imposing the tax upon the commissions of Trustees, Executors and Administrators, have not until now been in full practical operation; and I have no hesitancy in saying that you may rely with *positive certainty* upon an increased revenue from those laws.

The amendment of the Stamp Act at the last session, by which Lottery Tickets are required to be stamped, only went into effect on the first of December last, and you may consequently rely with entire certainty upon increased receipts from that source. In reference to the probable receipts in future from the Internal Improvement Companies in which the State has invested so much of her capital, I merely desire in this connexion to furnish you with some facts which will assist yon in the present investigation.

In the past fiscal year the receipts from the works of Internal Improvement were less than in the preceding year, by the following amounts;

The decrease of dividends from the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company,	$15,000
Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road Company less by	14,000
Tide Water and Susquehanna Canal Company less by	63,250
Making the diminution of receipts for the present year	$92.250

And in estimating your ability to maintain the public faith, you may, I think for the future, rely upon those companies for increased aid, at least equal to that deficit.

As it is possible from the mode in which the revenue is collected and paid into the Treasury, that a small deficiency may exist on some quarter days when interest is payable, which would be certainly met within sixty or ninety days by subsequent receipts; I would recommend for your consideration the policy of conferring upon the Treasurer the power to borrow the amount necessary to meet such a contingency, on a pledge of the Bank Stocks of the State. This would render resumption entirely safe and practicable, and would remove all apprehension, or doubt of the State' future ability to meet all her engagements with certainty and punctuality.

The decrease of expenditure consequent upon the passage by you of the Biennial Session Bill will be adverted to hereafter, but in this connexion it will be necessary for you to estimate the relief which it will afford by lessening the demands upon the Treasury.

The laws regulating sales by auctioneers require amendments; and I will suggest those which have occurred to me to the appropriate Committees of your bodies I have in a former communication recommended a review of the existing tax laws, he equalization, or repeal of those which perate unequally; and a condensation of he whole into one or two statutes, which ist would obridge the labors and facilitate te execution of the duties of the revenue officers of the State; and I must again respectfully ask your attention to those subjects.

Having satisfied yourselves, that the existing tax laws, faithfully executed, are adequate to sustain the credit of the State, the period at which the necessity for their continuance will probably terminate, will present an inquiry, of deep interest to your constituents, and one, altogether worthy of your consideration. It is certain, that the necessity for the continuance of the present taxes can only be removed by the payment of the public debt, or by the provision of the sufficient revenue from other sources, to meet the accruing interest on that debt; and the public mind can only be directed for relief, to two sources, the one certain but remote, the other more uncertain, but less remote in its probable effects. For the relief to be derived from the first source, (the payment of the debt,) we can rely with entire certainty, upon the operation of the sinking fund already established. For the relief to be derived from the provision of adequate revenue from other sources than taxation, you must look exclusively, to the works of internal improvement, in which the whole amount of the debt has been invested.

(To be concluded)

A TALE OF HORROR.

MASSACRE OF THE NESTORIAN CHRISTIANS.—We learn, says the New York Courier, through the correspondence of the London Morning Chronicle from Constantinople, that another terrible massacre has occurred among the Nestorians. In his letter bearing date Nov. 7, he says that the fact of such an event having occurred was known at Constantinople, but great pains were taken to conceal the particulars. In his letter of the 9th, he gives further details. About a month before, Beder Khan Bey, knowing that the efforts of the Turkish Government to thwart his designs must prove futile, collected various detachments of troops under the command of the Beys of Haikarai and Bevarr, and himself taking command of a large body of Kurds, marched into the country of the Nestorians. Knowing that he would meet with no resistance, he divided his force into small bands, and sent them in various directions to fall on the defenceless Nestorian villages. Of the result of this expedition, the correspondent gives the following details:

Thirty-six of these villages at the least, have been thus made the scenes of the most harrowing wholesale murders. To speak of their having been sacked, plundered and burnt to the ground, would be to draw attention to an incident of small importance in the face of the greater horrors which these bloody barbarians committed. Men, women and children crying for mercy; the women and children, in the agonies of terror, were put to death by every species of torture which cruelty could invent. Happy were those who were shot or who fell by the sword, who had not their bowels ripped out of them while living, or who were not impaled amidst the shouts and laughter of the murderers. Two of the bishops of the Nestorians, if not more, were impaled, and several of the priests. What impaling is, I suppose your readers to understand. But that was not the worst torture that was inflicted. Children were torn from their mothers, some from their mothers' breasts, and in presence of their mothers, who were obliged, screeching, to look on, put in the most shocking manner to death. The mothers afterwards were sacrificed. The youth of both sexes underwent sacrifices which cannot be mentioned, before their throats, in disgust and satiety, were cut.

The pen refuses to record more of these atrocities, though I might go on, and allude to abominations of cruelty, and worse than cruelty, which call for a retribution anearly equal to their bestial ruthlessness in severity as can be inflicted! *Three thousand of the Nestorians have perished in this massacre, on the lowest calculation.*—This most extensive slaughter took place at a large village, or township, called Bias, where Beder Khan Bey was himself present. Here the two bishops were impaled, and from this place were sent the three hundred heads *(pickled)* to the Pacha of Moussoul, with the insulting message, that if the Porte *presumed* to molest the sender, he would send to Constantinople, instead of Nestorian, Turkish heads enough to make a pyramid.

Whilst these things were happening, a council, over which the Nestorian Patriarch, who has escaped from Moussoul, presided, was held in a town called, if I recollect aright, Artchy, one of the principal Nestorian settlements. Here it was determined that, as resistance was vain, the whole people of the Nestorians should emigrate without an hour's delay, into Persia, where a numerous body of their countrymen are settled on the banks of the lake of Oroomiah.

The execution of this design was, however, difficult, perilous and disastrous.—The fugitives were obliged to leave behind them all their property; most of them crossed the mountains in straggling, frightened, wretched bands. But one corps of emigrants, stronger than the others, commanded I am told, by the patriarch, was attacked on their passage by the soldiers of Beder Khan Bey. After an obstinate conflict, in which many fell on both sides, the Nestorians gained the victory.

But the whole mountain district of Kurdistan, on the Turkish side, is at this moment filled with houseless, famished wanderers, hiding themselves in dens and caves, under all the worst circumstances and guises of misery, from their pursuers. Beder Khan Bey swore, before he started on his expedition, with all the solemnities of his creed, before two Imaums, that he would exterminate the whole Nestorian people; and all of them who have not strength to reach Persia will certainly experience the full realization of this oath.

The Constantinople correspondent of the London Herald gives further particulars of this calamity, the leading facts of which there is no room to doubt. The Herald's account is as follows:

Advices of the 15th of October have reached us stating that Beder Khan Bey had attacked the Nestorian Christians of Bias, and had put to the sword some 200. He then sent Mahmoud Khan (one of his sattelites) with the heads of his prisoners, as a token of defiance to Tayer Pacha of Mossoul, who was advancing against him with 12,000 men, and was encamped at "Elkosh," about 36 miles from Mossoul. The embassy, fearing to approach the town, loaded ten mules with his horrid trophies, and drove them into town with a letter couched in language of the strongest abuse. On the 7th of October, Tayer Pacha marched against them, and unfortunately took as guides spies of Beder Khan Bey, who conducted the Turkish army to the valley of Koshmerek, the heights being occupied by the Kurdish rebels.

On the morning of the 8th, the Kurdes rushed down from the mountains, and falling on the Turkish army unexpectedly, threw them into the greatest disorder and confusion. Tayar Pacha, however, rallied his men, and a severe engagement took place, the consequences of which are not precisely known. It is said, however, that the Turkish army has been worsted, leaving 700 killed on the field of battle.—It is likewise rumored that 3000 prisoners have fallen into the hands of Beder Khan.

The Nestorians, under the head of a mountain bishop, Mar Johanna (who is supposed to be a Russian agent, having been at Tiflis,) fearing the consequences of the effects of this disaster, fled into the mountains of Djeb el Tak. They were preparing to cross the frontier, to take refuge among the Persiuns of Ormian, where the Nestorians already number 35,000, subjec s of Persia.

It is further said that Mar Shimoun, the former Nestorian patriarch, had fallen into the hands of the Kurdes.

The letter of which this is an extract is dated at Constantinople, Nov. 4th. Under date of Nov. 7, the writer confirms the intelligence, and gives further details. He says that Beder Khan was elated with his success over the Turkish hordes, and gave vent to his vindictive spirit, in the most barbarous manner.

From the Annapolis Republican, Dec. 24.

THE CHANCELLOR.

On Monday last Governor Pratt tendered to our fellow townsman, JOHN JOHNSON, Esq, the office recently made vacant by the lamented death of Chancellor BLAND, and on the same day the Governor administered the oaths, and delivered to him the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, as the keeper of it under the Constitutional requirement. This appointment reflects the highest credit upon the sagacity of Governor Pratt, and we are sure it will be received with universal satisfaction — The pre-eminent qualifications of Mr. Johnson for this judicial station are not to be doubted. He carries to the discharge of the arduous and important functions of the office general intellectual powers of a high order, profound legal attainments, enlarged professional experience, an unsullied integrity, and great moral and physical firmness of conduct. While his fine address will render him of easy access to solicitors and suitors, his disciplined industrial habits will enable him to dispose of the ever multiplying business of his court with all due despatch.

We confess, notwithstanding the peculiar fitness of it, we regard the appointment with some regret. While the State gains an officer so gifted to preside over a tribunal second to none in importance, she must loose his invaluable services in another department. For several years past in the Legislature Mr. Johnson has been distinguished as the eloquent champion of conservative principles and the indefatigable support of the tate's faith and honor. His ardent and able advocacy of those wise measures intended to put the State Treasury in a condition speedily to resume the payment of interest on her heavy debt, and finally to liquidate it, contributed largely not only to secure their passage, but to make them acceptable to the people. Some of those measures are to be revised, and others of a kindred character are to be introduced at the approaching session, when the absence of Mr. Johnson's ripe experience and personal influence will be greatly felt; hence the only regret that can be occasioned by his acceptance of the Chancellorship.

The Legislature, by a Resolution of 1825, directed that the salary of the Chancellor should cease with the then existing commission. This was done in order that the Legislature might be under no constitutional restraint on the subject of establishing a salary. The present Chancellor, therefore, takes the office without salary, relying on the wisdom and liberality of the Legislature to be just to him, and to their constituents, in his respect. Looking to the character of the incumbent, to the nature of the judicial services to be performed, and to all the momentous interests involved, we do not allow ourselves to doubt that the Legislature will promptly fix the salary at what it has been heretofore, and thereby secure to the community the devoted services of a Chancery Judge, upon whose decisions all may rely with implicit confidence. There are some, we know who incline to think the court itself might be advantageously abolished; but they are comparatively few, and those few, we believe, have not given to the subject proper deliberation. Yet, be this as it may, it is certain that the Chancellor, as Keeper of the Great Seal, and with a view to the adjustment of pending cases, must hold his office until the necessary changes in the Constitution can be effected, and another tribunal or tribunals organized with Chancery Jurisdiction. Meanwhile, an adaquate salry must be provided; and in making this provision for Chancellor Johnson, we feel confident that the Legislature will not be unmindful of that wise principle, recognized in the 30th Art. of our Bill of Right, "*that salaries, liberal but not profuse, out to be secured to the Chancellor, and the Judges.*"

DIED.—The Leonardtown Beacon of Thursday last, says:—"Mr. Railey died on Thursday night last. After a careful post-mortem examination, the physicians came to the conclusion that his death was caused by intemperance and not by the blows received in his rencontre with Mr.

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