

and conspiracies against the peace and property of their neighbors, had been expended in this or some kindred cause, perhaps they would have had less time for fanaticism, and we less occasion to complain of insult and violated right.

It is matter of congratulation, Gentlemen, that the State finances are in so satisfactory a condition, and her Treasury so well provided, from a taxation which the preceding Legislature reduced by one-third, to the great relief of the landed interest, and notwithstanding the abolition of an impost which weighed unduly upon the commercial community.

A strict standard of economy in all departments of the public service is an essential element in all good government. Happily our State has long since passed the crisis of her more threatening financial embarrassments; but to afford substantial relief to the tax payer at an early day, the reduction of her indebtedness must go on without interruption, and the measure of taxation in the future should not be interfered with, by an over anxiety to anticipate a period of relief, which must soon be realized under a well directed and judicious system of finance.

Whatever we do in aid of this object, by withholding expenditures and appropriations that may not be demanded by the public exigencies, will hasten the enfranchisement of the people from the burthen of taxation, under which they have been so long and patiently suffering.

From the great works of public improvement upon which the State has expended so much, our returns have not been so large as in former years. Perhaps a change in the control of some of them may lead to more satisfactory results. If not, we at least have no responsibility therefor, since all power over them under the present state of things is taken away from the Legislature. The same enlightened statesmanship which called into being those important works, to which we are so largely indebted, by a liberal use of the public credit, has also guarded, by a restriction in our organic law, the further involvement of the State, now that the occasion for her aid has ceased. It was a wise foresight which demanded as a measure of protection to our agricultural and commercial interests, that the tariff regulations so intimately connected with the prosperity of our business classes, should be shared in by a representation fully commensurate with the aid which has been asked at the hands of the State. In the midst of events daily transpiring in the operations of the great works of internal improvement throughout the country, it is evident that this power can never be safely parted with. The people have a vested claim to a fair participation, on the part of the State, in the management of all those works for the completion and support of which they have been subjected to so heavy a weight of responsibility.

The appointing power limited and circumscribed as it has been,