

## The Governor's Message.

This important document was published on Friday by the Baltimore papers, one day in advance of its delivery to the Legislature. It is very long—very full—very well written. Time and space will not permit us to attempt even a synopsis. Indeed we have not found leisure to give it more than a cursory reading. The comments of the Baltimore *American*, which we subjoin and endorse, will give our readers a correct view of the leading points of the message :

Gov. Bowie's message to the Legislature has at least the merit of being *long*. It fills nine closely printed columns of the *American*, and if any enthusiastic admirer of State literature should undertake to read it aloud to his friends, three hours would scarcely suffice for the task. It is also one of the most comprehensive documents that was ever submitted to a legislative body. It gives a history of the administration which is coming to a close, pronounces a panegyric on all the measures of State policy which it carried through, makes an exhibit of the condition of the principal rail roads of the State, and other works of internal improvements, expounds the Constitution of the United States, and authoritatively determines what is meant by the phrase "appropriate legislation."

Gov. Bowie has been a courageous and independent Chief Magistrate, and has upon all occasions stood up manfully for what he supposed to be the best interests of the State. We can find no fault with him for rehearsing the principal measures of his administration, and we believe that upon a fair expression of public sentiment they would be endorsed by a large majority of the people of Maryland. In his contest with one of the great corporations of the State he showed both pluck and capacity. He devotes two columns of his message to an exposition of the questions of law and fact involved in that contest, and exhorts the General Assembly to zealously defend the points already gained. He forcibly insists that the property of all corporations should be taxed, and the fact that the capital of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company is equal to nearly one-fourth of the entire taxable basis of the State, and yet no taxes are assessed thereon, gives additional weight to his argument.

The part of the Governor's Message that might profitably have been omitted is his elaborate discussion of the Ku-Klux. Most people would rather take the Hon. Reverdy Johnson's opinion about the Ku-Klux than Gov. Bowie's, because his opportunities for acquiring accurate information have been infinitely better. The country knows what Mr. Johnson thinks of the Ku-Klux, and Gov. Bowie's assertion that "hundreds of peaceable citizens have been arrested without warrant" will have but little weight on the other side. This defence of the midnight assassins reads very much as if it had been originally intended for the indignation meeting in Monument Square, and it certainly would have been more appropriate for that occasion. We can only account for the Governor's singular lack of information on this subject on the supposition that he has been so much absorbed in the preparation of his message that he has not had time to read the newspapers for the last two months.

The Governor's discussion of the United States Election law is also ill-tempered and out of taste, as are also his flings at Marshal Goldsborough and his deputies, who seem to have excited the Executive ire by performing their sworn duty at the election for members of Congress in 1870.

"Shall these audacious acts and usurpations be submitted to and go unrebuked, to be repeated and intensified at any national, and particularly Presidential election?" asks his Excellency. We think it very probable that the peo-

ple of Maryland, as well as the people of the United States, will submit to whatever law the National Legislature shall, in its wisdom, enact; and when, as in the case of the Federal Election law, the effect of its enforcement is to secure a fair and free election, to protect the purity of the ballot-box, to preserve the peace and prevent voters from being intimidated, bullied and murdered, they will take care that whenever the occasion demands the law shall be faithfully executed.

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