

consideration, when you shall have received and examined, the particular reports which will, no doubt, be submitted to you in reference to each.

We earnestly press upon your consideration the necessity of providing for the better organization and discipline of the militia. The experience of all ages has taught that the only safe, the only secure, reliance of a free people for protection against outrage and aggression, is upon the militia—upon themselves. But this reliance is far from being either safe or secure, unless there be, constantly kept up, a certain degree of organization and discipline; at present, we cannot be said to have either:—how soon we may have occasion for both, none can tell.

It is not, perhaps, attainable, nor does it appear to be essential, that the whole body of the militia should be skilled, or even at all instructed in the discipline of the camp, or of the field, but it appears to us, that a system might be devised, which by providing effectually, for the regular enrollment of all the citizens subject to militia duty, and for the exercise and instruction of the commissioned officers, in camp and field duty, would insure to us all the essential benefits of a well organized militia, without in the least, encroaching upon the time and convenience of the great body of the people, or exacting of the commissioned officers any sacrifice, which their patriotism would not be forward in making, for so desirable an object.

The state of our finances will be made known to you, by the treasurer of the western shore, in the performance of the duties devolved upon him by the general assembly. That excellent and valuable public servant, will lay before you a particular and detailed report, upon this subject, from which you will learn all material facts in relation thereto, and by which you will be enabled to judge, more correctly than from any suggestions of ours, of the nature and extent of the public exigencies and resources. A prudent economy, in all our expenditures, is so obviously proper, as to need no recommendation from us.

There is no subject upon the mention of which, the patriot's heart will more freely expand, or upon which the enlightened republican statesman, more delights to dwell, than the education of the rising generation. Upon them, and upon their wisdom and virtue, will greatly depend the liberty, prosperity, and happiness of thousands unborn. They are destined to fill the places of each, and all of us; they are to be the heirs of all our possessions; the