

To The Honorable The President of The Senate and The Speaker of The House of Delegates
gentlemen

The peaceful and prosperous condition of the State during the last year, leave to the Executive only the duty of communicating the arrangements which have been made, under the resolutions passed at the last session of the honorable the General Assembly.

Under the appropriation for the purpose of repairing the public buildings, and enclosing and improving the public circle, the buildings have been improved and repaired. Some alterations have been made in the fittings up and furniture of the apartments of the House of Delegates and the Senate, and several new arrangements made to render them more comfortable and convenient. The public circle has been enclosed with a wall of masonry, which is an effectual and lasting enclosure, while it serves the very important purpose of preventing the abrasion and washing away of the hill on which the State House is placed. On these objects the appropriation has been exhausted; the specifications and vouchers for which have been regularly preserved.

Agreeably to the wish of the honorable the General Assembly, a letter was addressed to the Governors of Pennsylvania and Delaware, respecting the guarantees under which the citizens of Maryland labour, from the protection and encouragement given to run-away slaves. No answer has been received, in consequence it is presumed of the Legislatures of those states not having been in session since the correspondence was commenced. A letter, however, has been received from his Excellency the Governor of Delaware, enclosing a resolve of the General Assembly of that State, in answer to certain resolutions passed by the general assembly of Maryland, at December session eighteen hundred and sixteen and relating to the same subject. The letter and resolve are laid before you.

A communication is transmitted from the Reverend. Niall H. Shaw, containing an estimate of the expense of putting in execution his plan for ascertaining the variation of the magnetic needle.

The bond given by Francis Danver and William C. Goldsmith for a certain lot in Baltimore has been released: the Attorney General being of opinion that the state has no claim to the property.

An enquiry has been made into the situation of the several Turnpike Roads leading westwardly through the state; and much information collected from the presidents of the several companies. The reports have however been delayed, in order that the latest information might be had; and the actual situation of these works, up to the present time, be laid before you. With respect to the bank road in particular, the delay will enable us to communicate the satisfactory information, that the whole of that road to Cumberland, has been let out in small contracts of two, or three miles, to actual workmen or contractors, who are all bound to complete their contracts by the month of December eighteen hundred and twenty. In two years therefore, the work will