

stored he will doubtless proceed to the discharge of the duties of his mission.

Early in April last, as required by the act of Dec. session, 1837, ch. 333, I appointed three discreet persons, in each of the wards of the city of Baltimore, as Registers of voters, within the said city; who, at the time, and in the manner prescribed by that act, proceeded to perform the duties reposed in them; and in compliance with the direction contained in the 31st section thereof, the Registers on the fifteenth day of October last, transmitted to me a certificate of the number of ballots deposited by legal voters, declaring their approval or disapproval of the act, together with the number of all the names of the legal voters. That certificate is herewith laid before you, (being Document marked F.) by which it appears that a majority of the legal voters within the city of Baltimore, have declared their approval of the provisions of the law. Upon receiving the notice required to be given to the Governor, by the presiding officers of the two Houses of Assembly, I will instantly, and with great cheerfulness, in the further pursuance of its provisions, issue my proclamation, declaring the law to be in full force and effect. This calm and dispassionate decision of the citizens of Baltimore, affords lofty evidence of their just appreciation of the value and importance of the elective franchise, and of their zealous endeavors and determination to protect it as one of the great bulwarks of Civil Freedom. The right to express his sentiments, by the agency of the ballot box, is the most sacred and the dearest, with which a freeman can be invested; and the patriot should ever be on the watch for its inviolable preservation, and ready, under all circumstances, to make extraordinary sacrifices in its defence. The elective franchise is the foundation upon which the fabric of Republican Institutions rests. If therefore we suffer a blow to be aimed there, by means of bribery, coercion or the importation of spurious voters, or by reason of any pretext whatever, our institutions are at once threatened with a disorder which must, at no distant period, consummate their entire prostration and ruin. I most anxiously invite the deliberations of the Legislature to this momentous topic, in the earnest hope and expectation, that they will early digest in their wisdom, remedies for the frauds and disgraceful evils, which the election polls too frequently exhibit in many parts of our State. I have no hesitation, after mature reflection, in expressing the belief that a Registry of voters throughout the State, or at all events in the incorporated Towns, and adjoining counties, is a measure better calculated than any other to secure and limit the exercise of this invaluable privilege to those upon whom the constitution and the laws intended to bestow it.

In virtue of the power vested in me, by the act of the last session, chap. 313, I appointed Thomas Carroll, a Commissioner, to purchase a lot of ground in the city of Baltimore, and to contract for erecting thereon, a platform, scale and building, for the purpose of weighing Live Stock, carried to Baltimore for sale. He proceeded to discharge the duties required of him, and on his apprising me of the completion