

Government for sudden emergencies; but if the old system is continued, of distributing them as fast as they are received, and of receiving in exchange for them, such as are not worth repairing, it will be better to abolish the armories and get rid of the expense.

Last Summer, Col. Thruston was ordered out with a part of his regiment, to suppress a riot among the laborers on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. No charge has been made for the services performed, but an account will be presented for the expenses incurred, which cannot be paid by the Executive without authority of law.

With the exception of the disturbance on the Canal, which was promptly suppressed, good order has prevailed in every part of the State. During the past year, there has been a considerable abatement of crime; and very few cases have occurred, of violence or outrage, or of the use of pistols, dirks and knives, with which, disturbers of the peace generally arm themselves. The law in relation to fines and imprisonment requires some modification. A man not able to pay a fine, may be kept in perpetual imprisonment, unless he is released by the Executive. There ought to be no necessity for such interference, which might be obviated by providing for the release of the offender after a limited confinement. A man was sentenced by a District Court of Anne Arundel County, to be imprisoned ten days and fined five dollars, for committing an assault and battery. Not being able to pay the fine, and being a stranger and without friends, he remained in the Annapolis jail fifteen months before his case was brought before the Executive.

The Constitution of Maryland does not make it the duty of the Executive to recommend measures to the Legislature; and I communicate my views on the present occasion, not so much from a sense of official duty, as from a desire to comply with what appears to be the general expectation; and I have expressed my opinions freely, not that I supposed them entitled to much weight, but because I wished them to be understood.

WM. GRASON.