

# M E S S A G E .

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*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

*And of the House of Delegates :*

It is to be expected, that the representatives of the people of Maryland will look to the usual annual communication of the Executive, for a general and candid expose of the condition of the State. There is no subject in which our constituents can be more deeply interested. They may and do look with pride and pleasure upon the occurrences daily demonstrating the permanence and excellence of those forms of Government established in the several States of the confederacy, and cannot but exult in the proofs thus afforded, by the constitutional action of the General and State Governments, that no political institutions, which have been heretofore devised by human wisdom, can be compared with those under which we live, in their adaptation to the great end and object of all government—the security of private property, the protection of personal rights, the redress of personal wrongs, and the advancement of civil and religious liberty. But while contemplating the prosperous and happy condition of many of our sister States, and rejoicing in the glorious destiny of our Union, which the past prophecies for the future, our constituents must feel a deep anxiety in relation to the internal affairs of our own State; and have a right to expect, in the annual Message of the Governor to the Legislature, a faithful disclosure, to the best of his judgment, of the causes of our public difficulties, with a recommendation of such measures as may, in his opinion, be best calculated, in whole or in part, to remove them.

Nothing has contributed more to the embarrassments which we have to encounter, than the too absorbing character of our Presidential elections. At the time the two great parties of the country were organized during the first term of General Jackson's administration, on great conflicting measures of public policy, Maryland was free from debt, and there was no just reason to apprehend that any contingency could arise, which would endanger the fair fame and honor of our State. From that time to the present, our constituents have been engaged in an animated, and unceasing contest for the mastery in regard to the Tariff, the Currency, and the disposition of the Public Lands,—subjects which appertain pro-