

M E S S A G E .

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE

SENATE, AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES :

At the period designated by the Constitution you have met in Legislative Session, to administer the high and responsible trusts confided to your care by the people of Maryland, in the maturing of such measures as may in your judgment be considered necessary for the advancement of the public good.

I have great pleasure in congratulating you, upon the highly favorable auspices under which you are thus assembled, emanating from the unembarrassed condition of the Finances of the State, and the general prosperity which pervades every department of business and industry. Coming to the discharge of your Constitutional duties directly from the people, and from recent intimate association with your respective constituencies, doubtless, familiar with their necessities and wishes, I indulge the hope, that your deliberations may result in the adoption of measures, calculated to promote, in a great degree, the permanent prosperity, and welfare of the State.

Since the General Assembly last convened, two more fleeting, but eventful years have glided into the past, leaving behind them, for our guidance and instruction, their enduring record of good and evil.

Probably no similar period within the present century has been characterized by political events of greater magnitude, than those which have marked the last two years, involving, as they do, in their consequences, the future condition and destiny of so great a portion of the human family.

The fearful struggle for supremacy and power, between the prominent Governments of Europe, is still being waged with unabated ferocity, shaking Europe to its very centre, and threatening to draw within its terrible vortex, the entire Continent. The heart saddens at the contemplation of the awful sacrifice of human life, which has already marked the progress of this the most desolating and disastrous war of modern times ; no human intellect can predict the amount of blood yet to flow in this desperate and