

mencement of the last session, calculated as we believe, to facilitate the public business, and to relieve the constitution from an awkward feature copied from our colonial condition.

Our government, instituted solely for the general good, ought to be plain and simple in its provisions; and in the attainment of this great first object, we cannot be too studious in avoiding all appearance of mystery and unnecessary parade.

The legislature will always be safe in adopting such amendments to the constitution as will not infringe upon their more appropriate duties of legislation. The interests of a growing community, will, unavoidably, continue to add to the legitimate labours of the legislature; and without some such curtailment of their duties, as we have taken the liberty of suggesting, will hereafter extend its sessions to a painful and oppressive length.

We shall forbear to trouble you with a minute detail of our proceedings under the laws and resolutions of the general assembly, conferring authority upon us; and, with the remark, that all such laws and resolutions have been duly attended to, advance directly to the notice of subjects of most prominent interest.

We took great pleasure in forwarding to the family of the late Col. Howard, the resolutions adopted by the legislature expressive of their regret at his loss, and of the high sense in which they held his services and character. In these sentiments, equally honourable to the legislature and to the memory of a brave soldier and virtuous citizen, the executive fully concurred.

During a long and useful life, Col. Howard never committed an act which had a tendency to compromise those great principles for which he so bravely and conspicuously contended during the whole of that war, the successful termination of which, ranked us among the independent nations of the earth.

We are gratified to have it in our power to inform you, that during the last session of congress a bill passed the senate of the United States for refunding to this state the interest due on the money advanced on account of the general government, during the late war, which, for want of time, was not acted on by the House of Representatives. In the course of the present winter we look with confidence to the national legislature to extend to us this act of long delayed justice.

In discharging a just debt, there can, on no occasion, be any proper grounds for discriminating between the interest and principal, and certainly, no pretext for doing so, on the present occasion, as we had to sell a portion of our most valuable and productive capital, consisting of United States Stock bearing an interest of six per cent. to discharge debts growing out of expenditures which should have been, at the time, incurred by the federal government.

Under the resolution directing us to procure and present suitable swords to those meritorious officers of our navy, Captain Ballard and Lieutenants Mayo and Cross, in testimony of the high consideration in which their bravery and services are held by