

demn the lawlessness existing among their own race. I shall look to such persons to aid as far as possible in checking the criminal course of their wayward brethren.

But whether they do so or not, I want to say here and now, at the very threshold of the administration about to assume the responsibilities of government, that the violations of law to which I have referred must and shall be stopped, and that there shall be no mercy for those who wilfully and ruthlessly attempt to ride roughshod over the laws intended to afford protection to the life, liberty, safety and property of our people.

The retiring Governor, who to-day surrenders the trust committed to his keeping four years ago, has, in the fulfillment of the duty imposed upon him by the Constitution, communicated to the General Assembly his views upon public questions, and in his message has recommended much wise and wholesome legislation.

I beg you, Senators and gentlemen of the House of Delegates, to give respectful and due consideration to his communication, and the recommendations contained therein. His four years' experience in the executive chair has made him familiar with public affairs, and with the needs of the State. His views, therefore, are entitled to careful thought and deliberation at the hands of the Senate and the House of Delegates.

Should the occasion at any time during the present session require it, I shall exercise my constitutional prerogative of communicating with you for the purpose of recommending the enactment of such laws as in my judgment may be wise and for the public good.

The Comptroller of Treasury has likewise sent in his report to you concerning the financial condition of the State. This report should be carefully studied, that every member of the General Assembly may become familiar with its details, and thus be enabled to discuss intelligently, and to vote wisely upon any bill that may affect the revenues of our State.

Fortunately both political parties while in power have managed our finances wisely and well. It gives me much pleasure to say this. Nothing so closely touches the people as taxes. There is no public question about which