

The Secretary of State, the Hon. Wilfred Bateman, appeared and delivered the following message from the Executive :

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND,
January 6, 1904.

To the General Assembly :

You have assembled to-day in obedience to the mandate of the Constitution of Maryland to enact laws suited to our needs, and which are best calculated to advance the prosperity, happiness and moral welfare of our people.

The people of the State have expressed their confidence in you, and I have every reason to believe you are each and every one animated by a patriotic purpose to measure up to the responsibility thus imposed upon you by the Electors of Maryland, and it is not my desire in the performance of this, my duty, under the Constitution, in transmitting my message for your consideration to press my own theories upon your notice. But I do most earnestly wish to call your attention to conditions as they exist, and I shall endeavor candidly to give you exact information as to State affairs, so that you may be guided in applying the proper remedy and in giving the necessary aid and relief in the exercise of your own good judgment and sound sense by a knowledge of the facts.

I congratulate the members of the General Assembly and the incoming Executive on assuming charge of the State Government under such favorable auspices. The State is peaceful and generally prosperous, and whilst there are vexatious problems to be dealt with by your Honorable Body, I feel confident of your ability to solve them to the best interest and welfare of the people.

STATE FINANCES.

I herewith annex a short summary of the financial condition of the State, which contains much to challenge our admiration for the splendid management of