

MESSAGE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

It has again become my duty to address the representatives of the people, and in obedience to the requirements of the Constitution "to inform the Legislature of the condition of the State, and recommend to its consideration such measures as may be deemed necessary and expedient" The very short time allowed for the discharge of your legislative duties imposes upon you, the necessity of great economy in the employment of your time, and makes it indispensable for the proper transaction of the public business, that the leading and important measures of the session shall be prepared and matured at as early a period as practicable, to the exclusion, if necessary, of all business of a mere local, private or sectional character.

The people of Maryland, in times past, have had much reason to complain that important Bills of a public and general character, have been so frequently postponed to the closing hours of the session, when if acted upon at all, they were characterized by the errors, omissions, and defects incident to hasty and inconsiderate legislation.

It is earnestly to be hoped, that a mere allusion to this custom, will in some measure at least, remedy the evil which has become a matter of such general popular complaint.

STATE FINANCES.

The Reports of the Comptroller of the Treasury, exhibit the operations of the Treasury Department for the fiscal years ending September 30th, 1856, and September 30th, 1857. The financial condition of the State continues to improve, and a review of its operations presents very gratifying results for the consideration of the citizens of Maryland, notwithstanding the repeal of the Stamp Tax, at the last session of the Legislature, and also the reduction of the Direct Tax to one-half the amount previously imposed. The condition and operations of the Treasury for the last two fiscal years, under the amended tax laws of 1856, may be more clearly exhibited by a connection and comparison, with the statement of the preceding year.