And the following messages:

By the Senate,
February 26th, 1845.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:

We have received from your honorable body and herewith return the bill entitled, "an act to reduce the salaries of all officers paid out of the State Treasury, except salaries fixed by the constitution." Among the officer's salaries effected by the 1st section of this bill, are those of the Governor and Secretary of State. By reference to an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at December session, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, chapter 131, entitled, "a supplement to the act, to fix and make permanent, the salaries of certain officers of the Civil Government," we find the following clause—

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the following officers of the Civil Government, hereafter to be *elected and appointed*, shall be entitled to receive at the rate of the following annual salaries in current money, *whilst they continue in office;* that is to say: The Governor, the sum of four thousand two hundred dollars; the Secretary of State, the sum of two thousand dollars; to be in full for all services that the *law does now* or may hereafter require said officers to perform; and they are hereby required to reside at the seat of Government."

We would respectfully suggest the enquiry to your honorable body, whether this law, does not in spirit, if not by express terms, raise a contract on the part of the State with the said officers?

The individual now filling the Executive chair, certainly became a candidate for that station and was elected for three years, whilst the law above quoted was in full operation. The salary was well known, and the requisition of residence at the seat of Government equally so.

We respectfully ask of your honorable body, if the sudden change proposed by your recent bill, would not be in violation of the rights of the present incumbent of the Executive chair? Had he not a right, fairly to infer, that for the three years, for which he was elected, and which he expected to serve out, saving the accidents and infirmities of life, he was to receive, "whilst he continued in office," the salary established by that law? The salary, though annual, referred to his whole term—that term was a continuous one of three years.

Besides, if the right of the Legislature be acknowledged, to reduce at pleasure, the salary of the Governor, it would at all times be in the power of a General Assembly, adverse to the Executive, politically, to force his resignation, by withholding from him his entire salary, and thus indirectly and by means never contemplated, effect sinister party arrangements.

Again—we object to this bill because of its *horizontal character*, reducing in a precise ratio, all officers paid out of the State Trea-