

we might show that in the anarchy and consequent destruction of most if not all the free governments of both ancient and modern times, an inflamed party spirit has been a most prominent and efficient agent. But it is not necessary to do so. In our own times—here—in our own state, and before our own eyes, have we witnessed the extreme to which the undue indulgence of the spirit of party leads. But happy in our case, the patriotism of the community was aroused to the dangers with which we were threatened, and the issue of the recent occurrence furnishes a practical illustration of the stability of free institutions when supported by a patriotic and intelligent people.

In this connexion we would respectfully invite your attention to the proclamation and message, which we had the honor to submit to the House of Delegates on the 25th ult., copies of which we herewith transmit to the Senate. These documents exhibit the action of the executive, and the views entertained by us of the further measures necessary and proper to be adopted in relation to the extraordinary occurrences of which they treat. The more we reflect upon this subject, the more thoroughly are we persuaded that your action concerning it is a duty of the most weighty and responsible character, and we therefore earnestly hope that you will take into your serious consideration without any unnecessary delay, our election and criminal laws, with the view to prevent the recurrence of any similar conduct in all future time.

Among the first acts which it will be necessary for you to perform, is the passage of such a law as will entitle this state to the reception of her portion of the surplus revenue of the United States. It is probable that the sum which Maryland will be entitled to receive under that act, will not fall far short of one million and a half of dollars. The application of this large fund will, therefore, necessarily constitute a prominent subject for deliberation at your present session, as the whole amount of it will fall due before the next annual session of the General Assembly.

The internal improvement law of the extra session in May last having amply provided for works of this character, by authorising the negotiation of a loan of eight millions of dollars, the whole of which sum is appropriated to this most important object, and which we think should