

to suppress the disorders of a time of peace, and to maintain the public liberties in a time of war.

In my opinion, the Legislature of the State should encourage, by all proper means, the uniformed disciplined volunteer companies. We can never have large standing armies, but may have efficient, well armed citizen soldiers, ready for defence at a moments warning. The volunteer system addresses itself to the predilections of the individual, and which, if properly sustained by the State, will accomplish the great purposes of a citizen military. I verily believe that at this time, every regiment in the State might have attached to it one or more uniform companies, if there were any assurance that they would be properly armed by the State. The State would then have a mobile body of uniformed troops, armed, equipped, and passably well disciplined for service, composed of citizen soldiers, ever ready, when their services may be needed, to uphold the supremacy of the law, or to repel or suppress invasion upon her peace and sovereignty, and to protect the homes and property of her citizens from the treasonable assaults of fanaticism.

An indispensable prerequisite to the proper re-organization of the Militia, is the purchase of arms of the proper description.

In conformity with the 7th section of an Act of Congress, entitled, "An Act making appropriations for the support of the Army, for the year ending the 30th September, 1856, and for other purposes," approved the 3d of March, 1855, the apportionment to the States is made according to the number of their Representatives and Senators in Congress respectively. Upon this basis the distribution of arms has been made ever since 1856. The number of arms received by the State from this source annually is 365 muskets, but at this time there are requisitions on this office for at least 1,200, and I fear a larger number would be eagerly required by the other companies which would be formed, if there were any assurance or expectation of obtaining arms. In addition to the supply of these pressing demands, the State should possess a considerable reserve in its armories, to meet any sudden emergency; and the only way to procure them is by purchase by the State. The modern improvements in munitions of war, have rendered the old style of musket almost useless against an enemy armed with the new weapons; and the purchase by the State should be of the improved arms. The old muskets on hand, mentioned in the returns herewith submitted, useless as they now are, can be rendered serviceable at a moderate cost.

On the 28th of December last, I addressed a letter of enquiry to Col. H. K. Craig, of the Ordinance Department, Washington, to which he, on the 30th of the same month, replied; and by way of putting the Legislature in possession