

and which is so indispensable to her character and credit.— It was with a view to the attainment of this most desirable object, that we suggested the propriety of making provision for the annual outlay of the interest *only*; not deeming the expenditure of any portion of the principal, under the existing law of Congress, as proper or expedient.

Reform in the constitution of the State will constitute another prominent topic for your consideration, and permit us to express the opinion, founded upon mature reflection on the subject, that it is of the highest importance, that your present session should not be brought to a close, without the adoption of at least some leading measures bearing upon this difficult and exciting question. We had the honor of submitting some suggestions on this subject, in the message to the House of Delegates before mentioned, to which we beg leave at this time respectfully to call your attention.

It has become our painful duty to announce to you the death of the Honorable Robert H. Goldsborough, late a representative of this State, in the Senate of the United States. This melancholy event occurred in October last, at his residence on the Eastern Shore. The distinguished character of the deceased; his many valuable public services; his singular urbanity and kindness in all the relations of private life; his superior intellectual endowments and high moral worth, had acquired for him a name among his fellow countrymen which will cause him to be classed and remembered with the purest and proudest which adorn the long catalogue of Maryland's distinguished sons.

It will be incumbent upon you to supply the vacancy, created by this mournful dispensation of Divine Providence, at as early a day as convenient, since the importance of a full representation from this State in the Senate of the United States, during the residue of the present session of Congress, when many deeply interesting questions are likely to be decided, is so obviously apparent. We forebore to exercise the power of making a temporary appointment of a successor, with which we were clothed by the constitution, because it was not probable, that a full representation in the Senate of the United States, would be of much importance before your annual meeting, and because, without strong necessity, we were unwilling, by such appointment, to interfere with your unbiassed choice in making a more permanent selection.

In compliance with the resolution of the last General Assembly, No. 15, we appointed "one commissioner from each of the counties of the Eastern Shore of this State, to