

As "trustees of the public," accountable for the performance of the high trusts and duties committed to us by the constitution, or devolved upon us by the legislature, we proceed to lay before you an account of such of our acts and proceedings, since the adjournment of the last general assembly, as may be interesting to you, or the people, our common constituents; and to add such suggestions upon the important interests and concerns of the state, as have occurred to us during the present year, as worthy of being presented for your consideration.

We proceed in the first instance, to give you a detail of our acts and proceedings, under the several resolutions and laws, passed at the last session of the general assembly, conferring upon us various powers, and devolving upon us a variety of duties, accompanied by such observations on each subject, as seems to us proper, and necessarily connected therewith.

As requested by the general assembly, we forwarded to each of our senators and representatives in congress, a copy of each of the following resolutions, viz. (No. 11) declaring "that the congress of the United States, does possess the power, under the constitution, to adopt a general system of internal improvements, by means of roads and canals, as a national measure." (No. 12,) declaring "that for the purpose of electing the president and vice-president of the United States, the constitution ought to be so amended, that a uniform system of voting by districts, shall be established in all the states; and that the people in those districts shall have the right of voting, directly, for those officers;" and "that the constitution ought to be further amended, in such manner as will prevent the election of the aforesaid officers from devolving upon the respective houses of congress"—and requesting the said senators and representatives, "to use their exertions for obtaining the said amendments." (No. 17,) requesting the said senators and representatives "to call the attention of their respective houses to the superior advantages which the city of Annapolis and its neighbourhood possesses, as a situation for a naval academy, and that they use their best exertions in favour of the establishment of such an institution." (No. 31, with its preamble,) relative to light-houses and light-boats. (No. 38,) requesting "the senators who represent this state in congress, to bring before the general government, without delay, the claim of the state for interest on loans contracted by her for the prosecution of the late war, in the mode they may deem most expedient; and requesting "the representatives in congress from this state to assist in prosecuting said claim to a successful termination." (No. 50,) requesting the said senators and representatives "to use their exertions to have the route examined from Washington city, through Frederick-town and Harper's Ferry, with the view of ascertaining the best and most proper location for the contemplated road from Washington city to New Orleans." (No. 53,) "instructing" the senators, and "requesting" the representatives aforesaid, to support the application of the American Colonization Society to congress, for aid and protection." (No. 118,) requesting the said senators and representatives "to use their best exertions to obtain the establishment of a navy-yard in the city of Baltimore."

The opinions and wishes of the general assembly, indicated by the aforesaid resolutions, doubtless received from all the gentlemen to whom they were addressed, the respectful attention and consideration to which they were justly entitled.

The subject of the resolution, (No. 11,) is so very important, and opens to the imagination such sublime views and prospects of the immense and incalculable benefits, to be derived from the adoption and vigorous prosecution of a judicious system, embracing all those great schemes of improvement, which from their magnitude most appropriately belong to the sphere of action of the general government, (leaving to the respective states, the accomplishment of such *local* improvements, as may be required by their wants, and, within the achievement of their more limited means,) that we cherish the hope, and entertain the belief, that such a system will be adopted, at no distant period.