

cation required by act of assembly; and that such a qualification is now required by an existing act.

And we embrace this occasion to invite your attention to a complaint which is often made of great difficulty and perplexity in ascertaining the existing operative provisions of our laws. It appears to us that the difficulty we have mentioned, arises principally, if not entirely, from a system or custom which seems to have long prevailed in our legislation, of inserting as a concluding section of most of our acts of assembly, a provision, in *general terms*, repealing all pre-existing repugnant or inconsistent laws; under which, some of the most abstruse legal questions arise in the ascertainment and determination of *what* pre-existing provisions are thus repealed, or whether certain acts or parts of acts are, or are not, left in force.

Such large sums of money pass through the hands of the lottery commissioners, that however much reliance ought to, and may justly be placed in their integrity, yet prudence unquestionably dictates that they should be required to give bond, with ample security, for its faithful application. We recommend this subject to your attention, and respectfully suggest the propriety of a general revision of all the laws relative to the bonding of officers; the passage of a new law upon the subject, embracing all necessary provisions in one act, and the *total* repeal of all the present complicated laws on that subject.

It is manifestly desirable, that the laws should be certain, plain, and easily ascertained and understood: And it is believed that the abandonment of the practice we have mentioned, and upon the passage of all subsequent laws, repealing *specifically* such, or such parts of the then existing, as may be either inconsistent therewith, or rendered unnecessary thereby, would conduce to that object.

We see no necessity for requiring a property qualification to be possessed by tobacco inspectors, nor, indeed ought such qualification to be required, to constitute eligibility to any office. And it being expunged from the constitution, we recommend that it be dispensed with entirely.

Congress having lately turned its attention to the organization and discipline of the militia, in a manner that induces us to look forward for the happiest results to its exertions, will cause us, at this time, to refrain from extending our remarks upon that interesting subject. The adjutant-general was enabled on the 27th day of February last, to make a return of the militia of this state to the adjutant-general of the United States, for the first time since 1811: making the whole number, according to the last previous returns to him, 40,091. This we consider, 10,000 short of the actual number of the militia of the state; and the returns of November last, are nearly as defective, although we took every step within our reach to have them full and complete.

We would suggest to the legislature the propriety of enacting some efficient provisions for enforcing the enrollment of the militia—rendered indispensably necessary, as well for the purpose of war, as to enable us to receive our full quota of arms