

The Governor propounds the following question for the consideration of the Council. Will the Council take other measures than a simple renewal of the application heretofore made to the officers for the completion of our Quota of the eighty thousand Men. if so, of what kind and to whom directed.

To form a correct opinion on the present subject, I have cautiously investigated the important objects which it evidently embraces. At all times it is obligatory on us to carry the laws of the United States into effect with the utmost promptitude. But at a season when injurious consequences may result from delay: we ought to be particularly active in the execution of our duty. - From the imperfect and feeble provisions of the Militia law, much difficulty has arisen in giving efficacy to the regulations of Congress. At this eventful crisis when every circumstance invites to the conclusion, that America will ere long be involved in the calamities of War: we ought to adopt every measure which will infuse energy into the Military establishment. We ought to reflect that Maryland forms a constitutional part of the general Union, and that her Citizens must share the various conflicts of the approaching scene.

Let us examine what steps the Executive have adopted to complete the Returns under the law of Congress for organizing the State Militia. - If in the course of the inquiry we find that orders from the Commander in Chief have unavailingly issued: we must resort to some other mode to obtain the desired effect. It appears from the Records of the Adjutant's General's Office, that the Commander in Chief on the 14th of August 1797, ordered the Adjutant General to call on the Major Generals to furnish with due expedition (agreeably to arrangements made by the Executive of this State) their portion of the Quota required by the President of the United States. On the 23^d of September, the Commander in Chief requested that the Major Generals should as early as possible forward to the Adjutant's Office Returns of the Drafts in their respective divisions, designating the Names and Ranks of the officers thereunto belonging. and on the 2^d day of November the Major Generals were again called on to execute the orders previously given.

Every execution has been rendered by the Commander in Chief, which came within the province of his duty. Let us now view the conduct of the Major Generals, and ascertain whether they have been actuated by the same Spirit of patriotism and obedience. - Neither of them from some cause unknown to us, at General Funst